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Scouting in Hungary



HUNGARIAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION
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Gábor Bodnár:
SCOUTING IN HUNGARY

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SCOUTING IN HUNGARY



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Excerpts Background Notes — Hungary

Population: 10.6 million (June, 1986). Capital: Budapest.

Hungary's national flag consists of three horizontal bands — red, white, and green from top to bottom.

The People — Approximately two-thirds of the population are Roman Catholic; most of the remainder are Protestant (Calvinist, Lutheran, Unitarian, and other). More than 98 per cent of the people are literate.

The country's only important ethnic minorities are the Germans (about 240,000) and the Slovaks (about 27,000).

History — The Hungarian people traditionally have considered themselves an integral part of Western Europe and the eastern outpost of Western civilization in Europe. Hungary was a monarchy for nearly 1,000 years, and its constitutional-parliamentary system preceded by several centuries the establishment of such Western-type governments in other East European countries.

Sharing the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, Hungary lost the greater part of its territory and population at the end of World War I.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. George Némethy for the critical reading of the text and for many helpful comments, as well as to Mrs. Judith Némethy-Kesserű for compiling much of the material contained in the chapter dealing with Girl Scouting in Hungary.

I am also grateful to Mrs. Mária Benedek, Dr. Béla Máday, Mrs. Marilyn McNamara, Ms. Judith Pál, and Mrs. Susan Pap-Subrits for their assistance with translating and editing the text.

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FOREWORD

Scouting in Hungary enjoyed extraordinary popularity, from its very beginnings in 1910 to its forcible dissolution by the Communist government in 1948. Between the two World Wars, it was the most influential educational institution of the country. The Scouting ideals of Baden-Powell found their way rapidly into the hearts of Hungarian youth, and they were endorsed by the most dedicated educators of the country. The combination of unfailing idealism and of expertise in scouting practice singled out Hungarian scouts at innumerable international gatherings and resulted in the selection of Hungary as the host of the Fourth World Jamboree in 1933. This gathering became one of the most successful of all World Jamborees. Scouting was endorsed by respected public figures. First and foremost among them was Pál Teleki, the internationally renowned professor of geography and statesman who also served Hungary repeatedly as Prime Minister. Beyond all his numerous duties and honors, he devoted himself to Scouting. He joined young people to live the life of a scout. He was also one of the esteemed leaders of the World Scout movement.

What was the secret of the success of Hungarian Scouting?

What were the external conditions under which Scouting in Hungary was born, grew, and flourished? What were the tribulations that led to its present-day suppression? Above all, what were the internal sources of spiritual strength that served the movement during the three decades of its existence within Hungary? This book seeks to answer these questions. It does not do so in the form of a scholarly historical treatise. Instead, it provides a colorful picture of the activities of Hungarian scouts and scout leaders, their ideals and achievements, and the background of historical events. In short, it reflects life and it is born of experience of the inner spirit of scouting.

Nobody could be more qualified to write such a book than Gábor Bodnár. He has devoted his entire life to Hungarian Scouting, starting in Hungary, where he became scoutmaster at the age of 19, served on the leader training team a year later, and was elected into the National Council of the movement when

he was 22. After leaving Hungary in 1945, he was one of the small group of scout leaders who revived scouting activities among Hungarian youth in the refugee camps. Ever since, he has served unceasingly by organizing and directing the Hungarian Scout Association first as its Chief Commissioner and then as Executive President. He possesses an expert knowledge of activities, organization, and history, but more importantly, he is an active participant of a momentous era of Hungarian Scouting in Hungary and abroad. Everybody who is interested in the development of the World Scouting Movement can be grateful to him for making this history available to us.

There is one pervasive theme that appears throughout the book: if Scouting in Hungary was successful as an educational tool, this happened because of the enthusiasm of the scouts and the selfless service and sense of responsibility of the leaders. Let this theme inspire present-day scouters everywhere.

George Némethy
President of the
Hungarian Scouts Association

I. THE BEGINNINGS OF SCOUTING IN HUNGARY

First Steps

The Scouting movement had its origins in a small-scale summer camp, held by Robert S. S. Baden-Powell on Brownsea Island in England in August, 1907. Baden-Powell's initiative represented a radically new direction in the ideals and practice of youth education. Drawing on experience, imagination, pedagogical sense, and a deep understanding of youngsters, Baden-Powell conceived of a training system for youth that was based on sound principles of character and moral education, combined with practical outdoor training and emphasis on self-reliance. The system was perfused with romantic appeal and with opportunities for interesting activities. Baden-Powell also recognized the deep-felt need of teenage boys to gang up into small peer-groups, as well as the positive influence of a gang-leader who himself is hardly older than the members of the group. He turned this insight into practice by instituting the patrol as the basic autonomous organizational form of scouting. No wonder that the Scouting idea spread rapidly, especially after the publication of a handbook, *Scouting for Boys*, in 1908, written by Baden-Powell in an enormously readable style. In 1909, Baden-Powell went on a continental tour with a British "Boy Scout" troop. They visited Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, in effect sowing the seeds of scouting on the Continent.

In Hungary, the ideals of the movement and an outline of Baden-Powell's book were reviewed less than two years after its publication in the 1910 yearbook of a boys' secondary school in Nagybecskerek. Both Catholic and Protestant educators viewed scouting as an effective new tool in the training of teenage boys. The first scout troop in Hungary was organized under the auspices of the YMCA in Budapest (Budapesti Református Ifjúsági Egyesület) by Aladár Szilassy Jr., a physician. While traveling in England, he became acquainted with scouting and upon his

return decided to reorganize teenage activities for the YMCA along scouting lines. He began with an experimental scout troop of peasant boys, organized with the help of Gusztáv Vizsoly on the latter's estate. The results were encouraging and he soon organized a troop in Budapest. The first troop consisted of two patrols, and its work was based on the directives spelled out in *Scouting for Boys*. The YMCA magazine *Ifjúság* (Youth) dealt extensively with the scouting movement.

The following year, István Kánitz formed a troop at the *Királyi Katholikus Főgimnázium* (Royal Catholic Secondary School) in Budapest. Concurrently, several articles appeared in the youth periodical *Zászlók* (Our Flag), edited by Alajos Izsóf, detailing and praising the work of the scouting movement. The poet Sándor Sík and the educator Kálmán Radványi, among others, expounded on the virtues of scouting and on its use as an educational tool. These dedicated individuals and others like them founded the troops of the *Piarista Főgimnázium* (Piarist Secondary School) and *Regnum Marianum* Parish in Budapest, both of which flourished until the disbanding of the Scouting movement in 1948.

Thanks to the editorials of *Zászlók*, the scouting movement gained strong moral and religious direction as well as credibility in the eyes of the public. While the scouting movement in England was directed mainly at youth not reached by schools, and emphasized its outreach for poverty-stricken youth of city streets, in Hungary it appealed chiefly to school boys. Youngsters in Hungary welcomed the challenge of demanding tasks in scouting. They did not mind getting up early in the morning and going on long outings under adverse weather conditions; they were not afraid of the dark. At the same time, they were enthusiastic about discovering the secrets of nature at first hand.

The international reputation of scouting was augmented by an international gathering of scouts held during the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. In that year of heightened public interest in scouting, Hungarian troop leaders assembled by Gyula Papp on December 28 adopted the text of the Hungarian scout laws and founded the *Magyar Cserkész Szövetség* (Hungarian Scout Association) as the main coordinating body for scouting activities in the country. The association was led by Alajos Izsóf, Béla Megyeres, Gyula Papp, and Sándor Sík.

The Hungarian version of the scout laws reads as follows:

1. *A scout is honest and truthful under all circumstances.*
2. *A scout faithfully carries out his duties towards God, country and fellow man.*
3. *A scout is helpful.*
4. *A scout regards every scout as his brother.*
5. *A scout is lenient towards others and strict towards himself.*
6. *A scout respects nature, is kind to animals, and protects plants.*
7. *A scout obeys his superiors willingly and wholeheartedly.*
8. *A scout is cheerful and considerate.*
9. *A scout practices thrift.*
10. *A scout is clean in body and mind.*



Patrols in one of the first troops

Baden-Powell's genius was evident in the fact that scouting could be adapted to the particular cultural identity and heritage of every nation. It appeared as if scouting had been the product of each and every country in which it took root. In Hungary, scouting was imbued initially with British cultural patterns, but gradually it developed its own distinct and unique characteristics. It continued to identify with the basic scout ideals of Baden-Powell; namely, character development and citizenship training. It went beyond this, though, in striving to become the champion of a spiritual revival of the nation. This aim was of high priority for the Hungarian leaders. Despite the fact that the country was prosperous, there were many signs that tranquility was coming to an end. It became fashionable in many circles to attack the traditional values of family, church, and country under the guise of "progress," replacing the ideals with limitless libertinism. At the same time and within the context of increasing nationalist movements in Europe, separatist movements encouraged by neighbouring countries arose among the various non-Hungarian nationalities of Hungary. Thus, the establishment of scouting, promoting mutual understanding and brotherly love among young people, was a godsend.

The Hungarian scout movement faced many initial obstacles. Many Hungarians opposed scouting altogether. Some disliked it because of its ostensible circumvention of the official educational system, others because of its religious and national character. Many critics pointed to German militaristic youth organizations as a superior system to be emulated. Supporters of the latter, mainly some elementary and high-school teachers from Budapest, founded the *Magyar Őrszem Szövetség* (Hungarian Guard Association).

In the early days of scouting, it was not always pleasant to wear a scout uniform in public. Scouts were subjected to name-calling and even rock throwing, and the sight of teenage boys wearing shorts and carrying huge walking sticks startled adults and fright-small children.

Scout uniforms and equipment had been imported from England at first. Each patrol wore a scarf of a different color, and the five or six patrols of a troop were a colorful sight to behold. Even the most altruistic movements need some advertising, and so some members wore their uniforms to school. The first member-

ship drive took place during the Christmas vacation of 1912, when a patrol leader, Pál Kánitz, contacted a number of families and offered their boys free membership on a trial basis. When the experiment was over, he had succeeded in increasing the membership of his troop by nineteen boys.

The Guard Association, despite its healthier financial condition and the support it received from influential citizens, proved unable to prevent the dynamic growth of the scouting movement. The two organizations merged in June 1913 as the *Cserkész Őrszem Szövetség* (Scout Guard Association). Spiritual orientation was provided by the scouts, while the guards were in charge of recruiting and organization. The long, awkward name never caught on, and everyone continued to refer to the group simply as the scouts.

The troops of Pest held their first Scout Field Day in March, 1913, in the Museum Park. Although the popularity of scouting increased daily, many persons viewed it with reservations. In order to win them over, the scouts decided to hold a momentous event which would serve as proof of their credibility as an organization.

The Vág River Rafting Expedition

The Vág River expedition took place in 1913 between Kralován (now in Czechoslovakia) and Komárom (in Northern Hungary), a distance of some 200 kilometers. The majority of the participants came from Budapest but twelve other cities were represented. The expedition was carried on six rafts, each made of two 9x10 meter platforms that were joined together. Cooking, eating, and sleeping took place on the rafts, one of which was even equipped with a covered dining area. At night the rafts were tied up to the shore. Each raft was named after a bird.

It rained heavily for the first ten days of the seventeen-day trip. The river overflowed its banks at many points, and it took a great deal of know-how to navigate the vessels through the treacherous swollen river currents. A number of interesting events took place along the way. The take-off saw a gun salute and the people of Kralován lining the banks of the river. The inhabitants of a poor village invited all the members of the expedition to lunch, con-

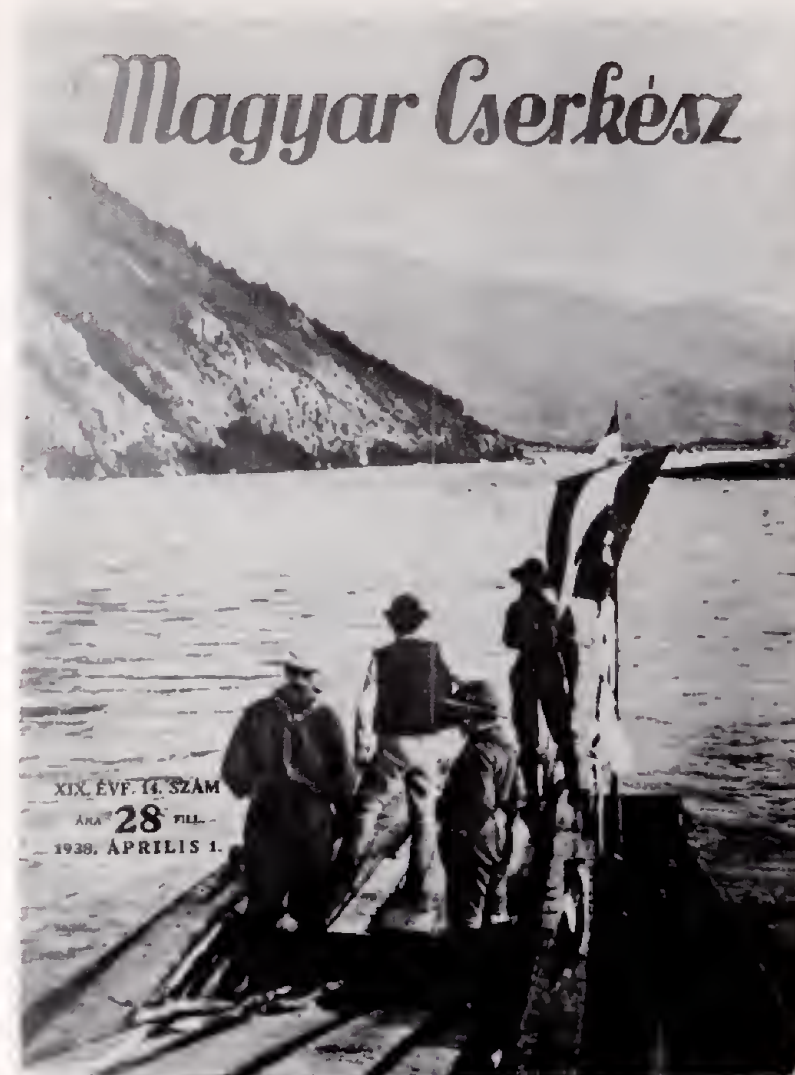


Route of the Vág river rafting expedition, and the steersman of a raft.

sisting of lentil stew and hard-boiled eggs. On another occasion, they were guests of a nobleman. The expedition reached the native village of its leader, Alajos Izsóf, on his birthday, and he invited all the scouts to his home to toast the occasion.

Scouting during World War I

The scouting movement became a nationally recognized organization by the time of the outbreak of World War I. Organizing committees and troops had been established in most parts of Hungary. The movement survived during the war years, even though its activities were hampered. It was left without a central coordinating body when its leaders were drafted into military service. Many of the founders gave their lives in the service of their country. Membership fell drastically. Nevertheless, the ideals of scouting continued to inspire youth even during the war. Scouts



Title page of the Scout magazine Magyar Cserkész featuring the lead raft of the Vág river expedition

volunteered their services at hospitals, first-aid posts, and railway stations. They collected funds for the wounded and aided the resettlement of refugees. The Piarist troop in Budapest established and operated an information center for refugees when Rumania

invaded Transylvania. Over 20,000 families were reunited through the efforts of the center.

Several new scout magazines were founded during the war. The Hungarian Scout Association was reestablished at the end of the war on December 1, 1918. Next spring, however, the communist government of Béla Kun forcibly abolished the movement. It saw clearly that the ideals of scouting were as much the opposite of its ideology as is water to fire. Many formal features of scouting were adopted by the communist youth movement, the Pioneers. Thus, members of the new movement were to use the scout salute, but with five extended fingers instead of three, to symbolize the unity of the proletariat on five continents. The regime did not last long enough to accomplish a complete takeover of scouting. Many scout troops persisted, maintaining their allegiance to religion and national heritage. Small units, usually patrols, continued to hold meetings in private homes.

II. REORGANIZATION AFTER WORLD WAR I

Milestones of the Early Twenties

Following the fall of the Kun regime, the Scout Association was again reorganized on September 21, 1919. Árpád Ravasz became its first president, followed by Sándor Sík (1921—22) and then Béla Witz. The new leaders had to adopt new by-laws and reach an agreement on national organization and leadership. Rules were issued with regard to organizing committees, troop formation, and examinations and procedures required for certification as a scout leader. The *Vezetők Könyve* (Leaders' Handbook), edited by Sándor Sík, was published in 1922 as a theoretical and practical manual for troop leaders. This volume was so successful that numerous national scout organizations translated it into their own languages. Training camps for Scoutmasters were held regularly from 1924 on, following the Gilwell system. Maintaining unity in spiritual matters, one of the most important tasks was accomplished without problems. Both Catholic and Protestant church leaders of the nation enthusiastically supported the scouting movement. László Ravasz, the outstanding Bishop of the Reformed Church, praised it eloquently, stressing its versatility, healthy educational aims, and moral principles. Religious tolerance among Hungarian Scouts was highlighted by Colonel John S. Wilson, former Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, in his book, "Scouting Round the World":

"The inter-religious principle of Scouting was illustrated in a remarkable manner in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Hungary. The two sons of the Protestant Regent, Admiral Horthy, were Scouts in a Catholic Troop. The Hungarian Roman Catholic Bishops Conference set an example in permitting priests to wear shorts while engaged in their voluntary Scout work. The original request was put forward by the Hungarian Deputy Camp Chief — a Lutheran, and supported by the Bishop of Székesfehérvár — a Scoutmaster. Incidentally, the Deputy Camp Chief, Fritz de Molnár, held a Commissioner's warrant for fifteen years before anyone at Scout Headquarters asked to what faith he belonged."

The new by-laws greatly facilitated countrywide organization. The duties of the executive were detailed and a central office was established. By 1922, the management structure of the organization had been established and an effective system of troop inspection and certification was initiated. Outstanding leaders in this crucial period were Árpád Ravasz, Sándor Sik, Béla Witz, Győző Temesy, László Gerő, Sándor Karácsony, Ede Faragó, Gyula Zsembery, Dezső Major, Frigyes Molnár, Sándor Borsiczky, and Emil Éry.


The national importance of the movement was considerably enhanced by the affiliation of the formerly independent Scouts Association of Western Hungary, led by Oszkár Selkey, Ferenc Farkas, and others. In 1921, the association had organized the first major scout gathering at Tapolca, with the participation of more than a thousand scouts from thirty troops. Upon its incorporation into the Hungarian Scout Association in 1922, it became District 3 of the organization.

Another milestone was the publication, in June, 1920, of the first issue of *Magyar Cserkész* (Hungarian Scouts), under the editorship of Győző Temesy (Herman). By 1924, the *Vezetők Lapja* (Leaders Journal) was also appearing regularly. Soon, the organization established a separate publishing house for its periodicals and books. The *Magyar Cserkészek Termelő és Értékesítő Szövetkezete* (Hungarian Scout Productions and Sales Cooperative) was created to provide troops and individual scouts with uniforms, equipment, and literature. It soon became an economically viable institution which was able to lend financial assistance to the organization.

By the early twenties, numerous troops operated in most cities of Hungary, and thousands of enthusiastic boys joined the movement. Parents and children alike felt an urgent need for the physical and spiritual discipline provided by scouting, especially in counteracting the detrimental effects of the war. Sea scouting was started. In the summer of that year, a group of sea scouts led by Gyula Zsembery embarked on an exciting 1,000-kilometer river expedition along many waterways: the Danube, Sió, Kapos, Zala, Rába, Lajta rivers and Lake Balaton.

In May, 1920, *Magyar Cserkész* sponsored the first large-scale *sámkháború* (field games) in the Buda hills, with eight hundred scouts participating. This event was followed by a parade in Buda-

III. ÉVFOLYAM.
BUDAPEST, 1922. SZEPTEMBER 1.
9. SZÁM.



MAGYAR CSERKÉSZ

A MAGYAR CSERKÉSZSZÖVETSEG HIVATALOS LAPJA

Kiadóhely: Pest, Arva u. 247. h. Főszerk.: 120 K. Nagybíró: 50 K. Egyenlő: 24 K.	Feltalál: KIRÁLYI HERMANN GYÓZÓ	Szerkesztő: T. Marosfalvi 17. III. 2. Adatlétrej: IV. Váci u. 62. I. 18. Megjelenés: minden hó 1 db.
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A m. kir. vall. és közokt. miniszternek 74.476—922 V. b. o. szám alatt kelt a gróf Teleki Pál dr. úrhoz intézett átirata

A Kormányzó dr. Önméltósága
 1922. évi június hó 10. napján kelt magas elhatározásával Nagyméltóságodat a Magyar Cserkészszövetségben szervezett cserkészmozgalom legfőbb vezetésére és irányítására főcserkészi kinevezéssel méltóztatott.

Erdő Nagyméltóságodat öröndetes tudomásulvétel végett van szerencsém értesíteni.

Fogadjon Nagyméltóságod őszinte tisztefeletem nyilvánítását

Budapest, 1922. június 30.

KLFBELSBURG s. k.

Engedje meg a Nem. Főcserkész ur, hogy a Magyar Cserkész vezetőhelyről tiszteletteljesen távozzék, szeretetéről és ragaszkodásáról biztosítsa.

A magyar ifjúságra történelmi fontosságú ténnyel Önméltósága fogadalmátétele utasítunk részletesen foglalkozni.

a Magyar Cserkész szerkesztősége.



GRÓF TELEKI PÁL dr.
 egyetemi tanár
 Az első főcserkész Magyarországon.

Title page of the September, 1922, issue of *Magyar Cserkész* carrying a portrait of Count Pál Teleki, the first Chief Scout of Hungary and the text of his letter of appointment.

pest that included the first appearance of a scout marching band. The first national scout exhibition was held in Budapest, in 1922. It included representatives of 36 troops from ten cities.

The most significant event of 1922 was the appointment of *Főcserkész* (Chief Scout) in the person of Count Pál Teleki, a prominent professor of geography and geopolitics and former prime minister. Teleki held the office for only one year and was succeeded by Count Károly Khuen-Héderváry. Teleki remained honorary Chief Scout and continued as the most influential supporter of the scouting movement.

The scouting movement celebrated its tenth anniversary somewhat belatedly in the spring of 1923, with athletic competitions on a national level, a leaders' congress and a national scout exhibition. Over ten thousand scouts camped during the year, many of them in Sea Scout camps. Scout troops toured much of the country.

Completion of organizational work on the internal structure of the movement was signaled by the establishment of ten national scouting districts. Founding of a Grand Council ensured relations with the public. Council members were chosen from outstanding personalities of the nation, with the aim of providing a sound supporting base for the the scouting movement. The first president of the council was Prince Albrecht of Hapsburg.

The Hungarian scouting movement initiated contacts with scouting organizations abroad, first of all with the International Scout Bureau in London. The Hungarians had been invited to the First World Scout Jamboree in England in 1920 but were unable to send a delegation because of financial difficulties.

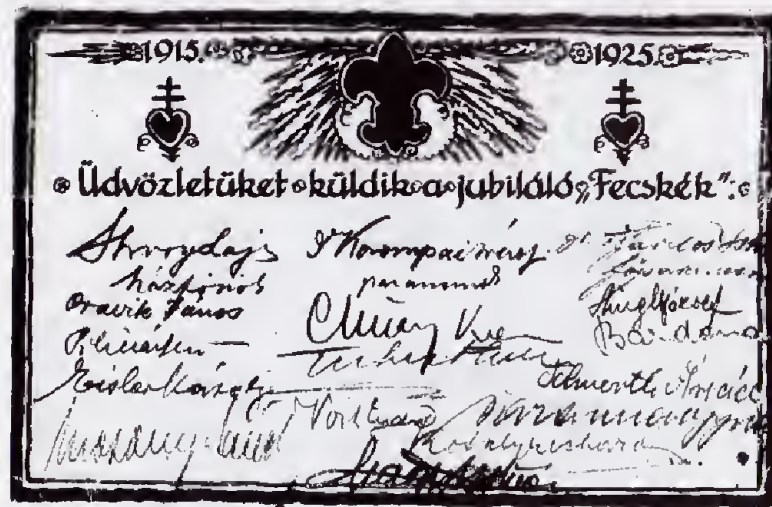
With financial assistance from Pál Teleki, the marching band troop No. 18 traveled to Kent, England, in 1922. A threemember delegation from Hungary, led by Sándor Sík, participated at the first world scout conference in Paris. Thereafter, Hungarian scouts frequently visited other countries. Traveling scouts were aware of the fact that they were acting as emissaries of their homeland. They took it upon themselves to improve Hungary's reputation abroad and to enlighten foreigners about the injustices of the Trianon Peace Treaty.

Troop activity flourished throughout this trailblazing era. Leaders and scouts excelled in the service of the movement, far beyond the call of duty. An outstanding leader of this period



Count Teleki Pál, Chief Scout of Hungary.

was Ede Farago, who traveled all over the country visiting schools and recruiting students and teachers. He singlehandedly organized more troops than all others combined. Boys under the age of twelve were organized into junior or cub scout troops, also called *apródok* (pages).



Greeting card of the "Swallow" troop in celebration of its tenth anniversary.

The success of the movement was evidenced not only by the number of new troops, but even more by the widespread acceptance of the social attitudes it advocated and practiced. Everyone saw that scouts did not differentiate between a blue-collar apprentice, a secondary school pupil, a peasant, or a university student. They all worked in harmony. The scouting movement aimed at breaking down social barriers and religious and class distinctions then prevalent in Hungary. This was one of its most significant contributions, made as a response to national concerns.

Alongside the expanding boy scout movement, Girl Scouting started to flourish in Hungary. At first, many outsiders doubted its feasibility. Critics viewed the Girl Scouts merely as an organization that simply emulated the activities of boys. It was feared that the demanding discipline on the one hand and the bold independence prevalent in scouting on the other hand would not be proper for girls. Girl Scout troops functioned for two



A Girl Scout troop in 1922.

years within the framework of the Hungarian Scout Association. They constituted an independent organization in 1922. The two movements complemented each other. The Girl Scouts developed their own training program. It was adapted to the psychological needs of teenage girls, serving their development to become creative, independent, and responsible women, wives, and mothers. Girl Scouts wore a uniform of their own and were organized into separate troops led by female leaders. The scout sign, the scout law, and the oath were the same for both Boy and Girl Scouts. The *Magyar Cserkész* magazine carried a separate section for Girl Scouts, edited by Jolán Gerely.

The Second World Jamboree

The first and decisive meeting with scouts of other countries took place at the Second World Jamboree in Copenhagen in 1924. The Jamboree was patterned after the Olympic Games

as a world scout championship. Each country could send 48 scouts (six patrols) with four escorting leaders to take part in the competition. The Hungarian contingent, which trained for about six months before the event, was designed to include boys with diverse backgrounds. They were selected from troops affiliated with secondary schools, with industrial plants, and with religious organizations. Training emphasized teamwork above individual achievement. Proper manner and demeanor, as well as discipline, received much attention.

The Hungarian contingent arrived in Denmark on August 9, 1924, escorted by Győző Temesy, Pál Sztrilich, Ede Faragó, and the Chief Scout, Count Károly Kuhen-Héderváry. Nobody expected much of the simply dressed, modest Hungarian scouts, but they distinguished themselves from the first days of the Jamboree by their discipline and spirit of fellowship. They were inventive and quick in solving the various problems presented in the course of the competitions. They were particularly effective when a combination of thoughtfulness, spirit, and innovation was called for. They finished third in the competition of the nations, behind the United States and England.

They took the first prizes in camp routine, campfire entertainment, and the Scout contest that consisted of observation, deduction, estimation, tracking, and first aid. They placed second in swimming (which included diving and water safety), canoe trip, and camp-craft, fourth in national folk dances, fifth in the twenty-four hour hike and in songs and yells, sixth in outward appearance, and eighth in the patrol obstacle course.

Sándor Sik's eye-witness report illustrates one of the episodes of the Jamboree:

"An enormous thunderstorm drenched Copenhagen just as Baden-Powell arrived. Wind and rain wrecked havoc with the camp. Most of the campers had to flee to neighboring farmhouses or to the city, because their tents were flooded or upended. The judges of the Scout Competition decided to include resistance of the national camps to the storm as a new item in the competition. They visited all tents, counted the scouts who remained in their camp, and took notes on the condition of the camps. The British, American, and French camps, as well as many others, were weather-beaten, full of mud.

The Hungarian camp stood undamaged. Well-cut ditches saved the tents from flooding. Tight pegging resisted the fury

of the storm. Not one Hungarian boy left the camp. All of them were in their tents, sleeping, reading, chatting, astonished at the surprise and appreciation of the judges.

The main judge lunched at the camp. After the meal, he solemnly declared: 'I salute the Hungaian troop, which has the most beautiful camp.'"

Despite all the interest and excitement generated by the Jamboree, the leaders of world scouting decided against any more world scouting championships. It was agreed that the various competitions and preparations deprived the scouts of the opportunity to spend time with scouts of other countries and establish ties of friendship. The event had turned into a sporting meet which had its own merits but was not to be central to international scout gatherings.

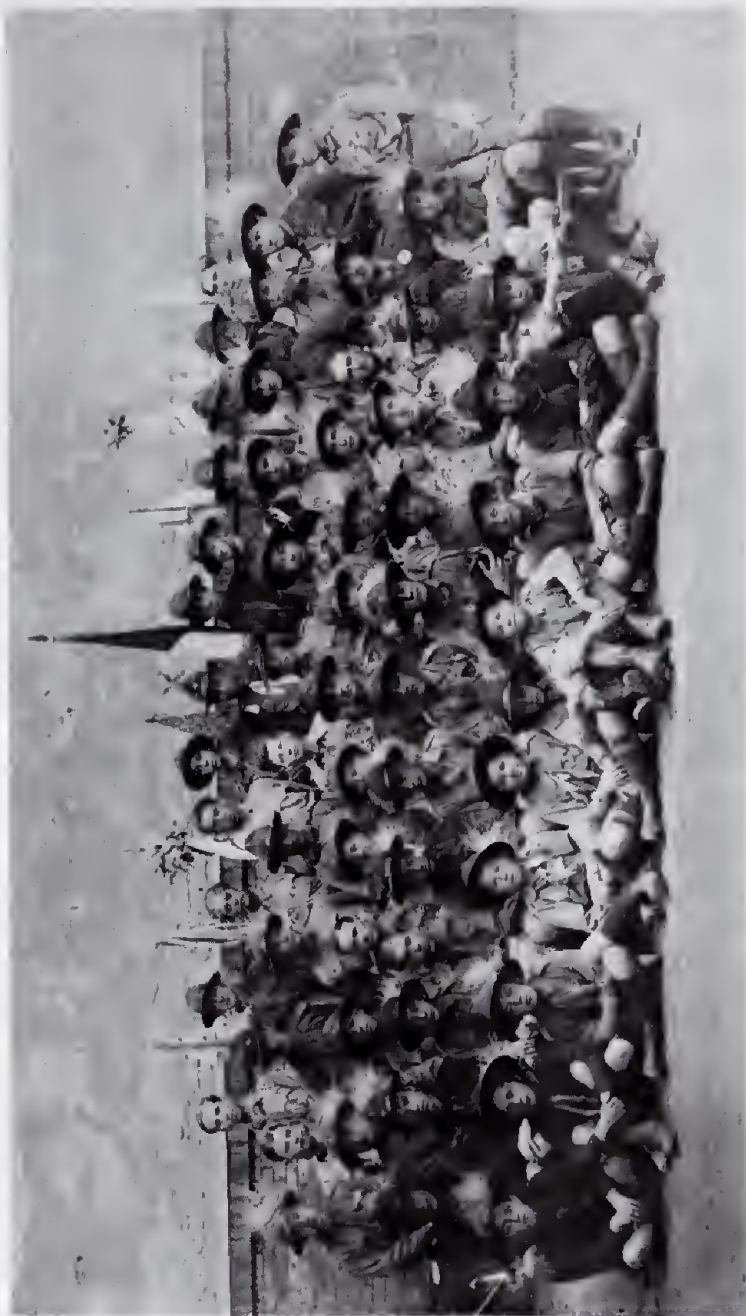
The First Hungarian National Jamboree

The nation received the scouts returning from the World Jamboree with tremendous acclaim. They were invited to a special audience with the Regent. Their success encouraged the formation of new scout troops all over the country.

By this time, not only scouts themselves but many others realized that scouting could play an important role in improving the image of Hungary in the eyes of other nations. Prompted by this realization, the leadership increased its efforts to send the best-prepared Scout contingents to travel outside Hungary. In turn, many foreign scout groups that had been their hosts now traveled to Hungary and were received with unfailing hospitality. The idea of a Jamboree-like assembly of all Hungarian scouts with the participation of guest scouts from other countries began to be considered seriously.

The large-scale national camp of 1926 turned out to be one of the most important events of the twenties. The planning of this event was entrusted to a special committee headed by Sándor Sik.

Originally, the campsite was to have been on Népsziget Island in the Danube. Surveying, planning, and even the installation of the technical equipment needed to accommodate thousands



A Boy Scout troop in 1926.

of campers had already been completed when the Danube flooded and submerged most of the site. Ten days before the camp was to open, the organizers had to decide whether there was going to be a National Jamboree. Pál Teleki's enthusiasm saved the situation. He convinced all doubters that the camp must be held at the appointed time. The government provided some funds to assist in the relocation of the camp to the hills of Megyer. Speedy preparation of the new site was undertaken and the camp opened on schedule. This feat raised the prestige of the movement in the eyes of the public. People were impressed by the scouts' ability to achieve remarkable feats in record time, against heavy odds. The scouting movement had demonstrated that it could be counted upon to serve society's needs as they arise.



Entrance gate at the Megyer National Jamboree in 1926.

The Megyer campsite had the advantages of open areas and a nearby river. Its shortcomings included poor transportation and water supply. Camp headquarters were close to the central field where all large assemblies took place and where the flags of the participating nations were displayed. The campsite was flanked on the north by the camp restaurant, bazaar, and archery field and on the south by food supply services and fire-fighting equipment. Several first-aid areas were set up, together with a camp hospital. Facilities included an amphitheater that could accommodate ten thousand people. All camp services were manned by scouts, with the exception of the post office. Sub-camps were connected by a telephone system. Guests were driven to the campsite by cars on a regular schedule. Dropping greetings from various groups, small aircraft flew frequently over the camp.

The chief scouts of Austria, Great Britain, Italy, and Bulgaria attended. Scout contingents came from Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, India, Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Switzerland. The official opening took place with pomp and circumstance on July 15. Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included Count Pál Teleki, Prince Albrecht, and Lord Hampton, Chief Scout of Great Britain. A campfire was held the same evening to express solidarity with scouts in the areas that had been detached from Hungary in 1920 by the Trianon Peace Treaty. Hungarian scout troops in Transylvania (Rumania), southern Czechoslovakia, and northern Yugoslavia also lighted campfires that evening. On July 17, Admiral Miklós Horthy, Regent of Hungary, was greeted by a march-past of the scouts.

Camp activities were numerous. Many duties and services had to be performed. Competitions were held, including a two-day poetry recital contest. Displays were presented to visitors. Troops from rural regions excelled in the folksong competition. Thousands sat in the amphitheater and watched movies which often included films made by and of the scouts at the camp. The scout exhibit displayed crafts submitted by over sixty troops from all over the country. The items displayed included wood earings, leatherwork, medals, trophies, troop insignia, and flags.

Competitions were divided into compulsory and optional classes. The compulsory competitions demanded skills generally

practiced by all scouts, such as camp construction and campfires in the troop competition and obstacle courses in the patrol competition. In the individual competition, boys were required to demonstrate their skills in map reading, first aid, observation, tracking, water safety, and cooking. The optional competitions included advanced scoutcraft as well as athletic events such



Caricatures from *Tábori Újság*, the daily newspaper of the Megyer National Jamboree. Top: "At the outset of the camp — and at its end." Bottom: Mail delivery in the "Sahara" camp.

as archery, fencing, rowing, cycling, and horseback riding. Some of Hungary's Olympic athletes in later years had been participants of this national camp.

The official newspaper of the camp, the *Tábori Újság* (Camp News), appeared six times during the week. Three thousand copies of each twelve-page issue, full of photographs and cartoons drawn by the scouts themselves, were distributed. A frequent object of humor was the sand of the campsite, blown by the winds into tents, food, and everywhere else, inspiring a whole series of 'Sahara' jokes.

B. P.-S MESSAGE TO THE HUNGARIAN SCOUTS.

My dear Teleki

It is difficult for me to express how very grateful I am for the kindness shown to me by yourself, Count Károlyi-Hörvitz, Molnár, and all your scout officers and boys. The warmth of your welcome to me and to my wife has touched me both very much.

From the moment of our arrival you have made me feel that we were at home among friends.

Therefore, I have been surprised and pleased with the position in which I have found the scout movement in Hungary.

The boys strike me as not only well-uniformed and smart in appearance but also full of cheery spirit, ready to do anything that was suggested of them and able to do the many jobs expected of Scouts.

I was all the better able to judge of their spirit because it was put to the fullest test by the rain and mud, and they came through it all successfully with cheery faces - though with muddy knees!

They are splendid fellows. I did not like to make my speech very long when they were attending and in the

rain, otherwise I should had some thing to say to the Scoutmaster. I hope therefore that you may be kind enough to express to them my very hearty thanks for the splendid welcome which they accorded to me, and my warmest congratulations on what they have achieved in the successful training of their boys.

They must have devoted a great deal of time and trouble both in getting themselves trained and in organising and teaching their troops. But it has been time and trouble well spent in a very valuable service for their country. You are all working on the right lines for making the next generation a nation of patriotic men strong in body, mind and spirit. I am thankful if I can be of any help to you in this work, and from my heart I wish you all continued and increasing success.

Yours very sincerely

Robert Baden-Powell

P.S. I need not say how warmly you and your Scouts will be welcomed when you come to our Jamboree next year.

Lord Baden-Powell was invited but he could not attend the camp because of illness. Instead, he visited Hungary with his wife in May, 1928, and was greeted in Budapest by a rally of 8,000 scouts. Emphasizing his satisfaction and his appreciation of the Hungarian Scouting movement, he addressed one of his cheerful speeches to the assembled boys. These sentiments are reflected in this thank-you letter, written to Pál Teleki and reproduced here in facsimile, taken from a contemporary issue of *Magyar Cserkész*.

Scouting Institutions and Activities

The unprecedented success of the National Jamboree led to continued lively expansion. A headquarters building, a training park, a scout store, and a central sea scout base were acquired in 1927.

Headquarters resided in a three-story building in downtown Budapest which was to remain the nerve center of the movement until its disbanding in 1948. It housed offices, a large meeting hall, guest rooms, the Scout Shop, and editorial offices. The 20-acre training park, located on the outskirts of Budapest, was used for troop outings and leadership training courses. The success of the leader training seminars can be attributed largely to the efforts of the *Házi Őrsvezetők Köre* (HÖK, Headquarters Patrol Leader Circle), whose members were always on call as a training team. This group, founded in 1928 by Pál Sztrilich, invented the so-called *forgószínpad* (revolving stage) method of training, an effective way of instructing small groups in several different subjects in a short time. It is used by many scout groups to this day. The park became a favorite campground of scouts from all parts of the country. Its equipment and facilities were constantly upgraded. Eventually it accommodated 1,200 leadership candidates a year in tents that could even be heated in cold weather for training courses held on snowy March days. The name of the training park, *Hárshegy* (Linden Tree Hill) inspired the emblem of Hungarian Scout leadership training ever since, a badge showing a linden leaf.

The scout store was established to supply scouts with uniforms and equipment, to interest scouts in marketing and commerce,

Facsimile of Lord Baden-Powell's letter of thanks to the Hungarian Scouts after his visit to Budapest in 1928.



The Hungarian Scout House in Budapest, location of National Headquarters and of the Scout Shop.

and above all, to support the movement financially. The by-laws required that 60 percent of the profits be used for scout-oriented projects. The directors performed their tasks on a volunteer basis. The store, which later grew to 62 employees, became a considerable asset to the Association. Dezső Major was a major figure in its establishment and management.

At the time of the National Jamboree, Scoutmaster Gyula Zsembery discovered an abandoned shipyard on the Népsziget Island. This became the Headquarters of Hungarian sea scouts.

The *Vezetőtestület* (Council of Commissioners), a top-level group of leaders, was established to raise the standard of scout training even higher. It dealt directly with scouts and troops, providing practical advice and counsel.



THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION,

25, BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD,

LONDON, S. W. 1.

Dear Marton,

7/6/28.

Thank you so very much for that delightful portrait of the Wolf Cub, which arrived quite safely. It was indeed good of you to do it especially for me, & it will be a fine memento of our delightful stay in your country. You will want a large supply of paper & pencils when you come over next year. We are hard at work with our preparations now, & the Jamboree is beginning to get into shape. But there is a lot to be done. I shall have a special welcome for your Hungarian Scouts - I almost feel myself one of them by now -

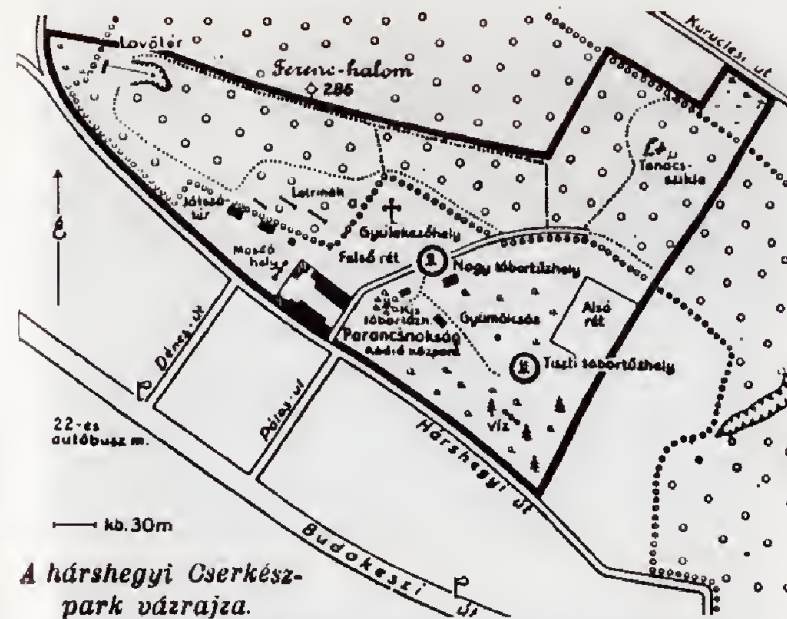
Yours sincerely & gratefully

Lord Hampton.

Facsimile of letter of thanks by Lord Hampton, Chief Scout of Great Britain, to Lajos Márton, the renowned illustrator of Hungarian Scouting publications.



Participants at a Leaders' Conference of the Southern District of the Association in 1928.



A hárshegy Cserkész-park vázrajza.

Map of the Hárshegy training camp near Budapest.

A yearly Scout Day became a traditional event. On this day, all scouts and leaders wore their uniforms to school or work. In 1927, Hungarian scouts sent representatives to the International Sea Scout competition in Helsingör, Denmark, and to the Swedish national camp near Stockholm. The Hungarian team won several first places in the 1928 and 1929 International Scout Skiing competitions in Kandersteg, Switzerland.

In 1929, the Scout Association published a collection of folksongs entitled *101 Magyar Népdal* (101 Hungarian Folksongs), with a foreword by the composer Zoltán Kodály. With the publication of this volume, Scouting became the first institution to popularize folk music in Hungary. Lajos Bárdos, a leader of Troop 7 at the Werbőczy High School in Budapest, had been a student of Kodály at the Academy of Music from 1920 to 1925 and initiated the singing of folksongs among scouts. The folk music of Hungary, painstakingly documented, preserved, and held in esteem today, was not appreciated at the turn of the century. It was a truly hidden national treasure, as the folk music research of Zoltán Kodály and Béla Bartók was not well known. The eventual wide acceptance of folk music was, in large measure, due to its promotion by scouting.

III.

THE HUNGARIAN GIRL SCOUTS

Inspired by boy scouting, the first girl scout troops in Hungary were formed in 1919. Soon the movement became independent. The first Girl Scout Council was organized by 1921, headed by Jolán Gerely. An organizational booklet, *Leánycserkész Útmutató* (Girl Scout Handbook), was published the same year. In 1924, Antonia Lindenmeyer was elected president of the Hungarian Girl Scout Association. She remained head of the organization until 1945. Endeavoring to secure the support of Hungarian society at large, in 1924 the Association organized the Advisory Council, which was made up of thirty distinguished ladies. Archduchess Anna of Hapsburg assumed the title of Patroness of the Association in 1925.

For many years, the Girl Scout movement was much less popular than Boy Scouting. Its development was made difficult by prejudice on the part of parents and of society at large, as a result of prevailing views about the educational needs of girls. Many of the successful principles and practices of scouting were considered "unladylike". Outdoor life, camping, the wearing of a uniform, and scoutcraft were thought improper for girls. Nevertheless, the Association had 5,000 members in 1927, in about 100 troops organized into 11 districts. Numbers increased steadily, reaching 12,700 girls scouts in nearly 300 troops by the end of World War II.

The troops had to be sponsored by educational institutions in order to become members of the Association. Therefore, most girl scout troops functioned in the framework of elementary and secondary schools. Troops were divided into at least four "families" of 8-10 girl scouts each. There were separate troops of brownies (for girls aged 6 to 12), girl scouts (from 12 to 18), and rangers (if the troop was made up of girls above 18). Troop activities centered on four areas: character building, practical skills, physical fitness, and development of social responsibility. The objective was to prepare the girl scouts for women's three tasks in life: to be mothers, homemakers, and breadwinners. For girl scouts over 14, great emphasis was placed on merit badges.

International contacts started in 1922, when the Council of the Hungarian Girl Scout Association became a member of the Girl Scout World Conference. In 1928, Hungary was host to the fifth World Conference of Girl Guides, held in Pará and attended by delegates from 26 countries, representing 33 girl guide organizations. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was founded at this conference. It had 9,000 members at the beginning but grew to seven and a half million by 1978. The Conference assumed the work of the earlier International Council as coordinator of the activities of girl guides in various countries. The conference at Pará was opened by Lord Baden-Powell himself, accompanied by his wife, Olave. It elected a president and an executive committee. A central office was established in London, led by Katherine Furse from England. The guides' international magazine, *The Council Fire*, reprinted the original 1928 report of the conference in 1978, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary:

"The first meeting on Hungarian territory took place in the Collegium Hungaricum, at Vienna, where the delegates and guests met on May 2nd, and where we made the acquaintance of many Hungarian Girl Scouts, who had come from various places for this purpose. After a beautiful boating trip we arrived the following evening at Budapest, and were welcomed and addressed on the part of the Government and the Minister of the Board of Education. That Scouting is looked upon in Hungary as an important factor of education is proved by the fact the President, Miss Antonia Lindenmeyer, who is a high-school teacher, was allowed three months' holiday to prepare this congress. In the old University town, Debrecen, there are university lectures in Scouting, where leaders are formed and where there is even a hall for Girl Scout students only. That Scouting is made much of, was proved by the numerous receptions to which the delegates were invited... Then a very official reception in the large reception hall of the "Hofburg" by the Governor of Hungary, Admiral Miklós Horthy, by the Minister-President, Count Bethlen; by the Parliament; and the Lord Mayor and town Councillors.

A very pleasing performance in the theatre, where we saw various presentations of Hungarian history, first from the heathen and then from the Christian period. After that, a presentation of family feasts and customs of Hungarian peasants, as are often seen by Girl Scouts when camping out which showed us many

peculiar customs. There were also some beautiful Hungarian dances.

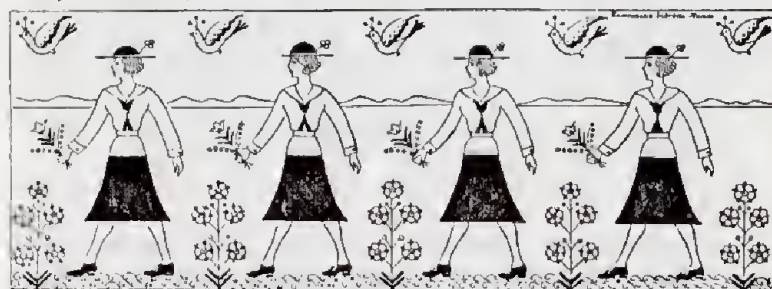
We also had the pleasure of seeing several interesting parts of the country."

Miss Lindenmeyer was elected to the nine-member World Committee as a recognition to the growing movement in Hungary.

Leader training camps were held at regular intervals, starting in 1923. They ensured the unification of instruction programs of the different troops and fostered personal contact among the leaders. Unity of the movement was served foremost by the launching, in 1931, of the journal of the Association, *Cserkészlányok Lapja* (Girl Scout Magazine), which was to appear monthly without interruption, until November, 1944. Other publications included the *Tündérke* (Fairy) magazine for Brownies, the *Leány-cserkész Útmutató* (Girl Scout Handbook), and the *Család-vezetők Könyve* (Family Leaders' Handbook).

I. (X.) ÉVFOLYAM, 6. SZÁM.

1939 AUGUSZTUS HÓ.



CSERKÉSZLÁNYOK LAPJA

Felcélós szerkesztő és kiadó: LINDENMEYER ANTONIA orsz. elnök.

Page heading in the August 1939 issue of the Girl Scout magazine *Cserkészlányok Lapja*.

The year 1932 represents a new milestone of the Hungarian Girl Scout movement: the first national camp was held at Tahi, with the participation of 485 girl scouts from all over the country. Next, the Association actively helped the Boy Scout Association in the preparations for the Fourth World Jamboree in Gödöllő. Although girl scouts did not camp at the Jamboree, they acted as hostesses to visiting girl scouts and organized excursions for



Cserkészlányok Lapja

I. (X.) ÉVF., 6. sz. — 1939 AUGUSZTUS

Title page of the August, 1938, issue of *Cserkészlányok Lapja*, issued before the opening of the Pax-Ting.

them throughout Hungary. They also prepared a large exhibition of folk art and scoutcraft in Budapest.

This same year, 1933, saw the acquisition — through gifts — of new Headquarters, as well as a five-acre camping ground in Kácstapolca. Later, a larger property of 12 acres was acquired in Balatonszárszó.

The consolidation of the Girl Scout movement in Hungary, coupled with the overwhelming success of the Fourth Scout Jamboree at Gödöllő inspired the Girl Scout Association to organize a world gathering for girl scouts. Pax Ting, the first and so far only World Jamboree for girl scouts alone was also held in Gödöllő, in 1939. The name of the gathering was coined from Latin for "peace" and Old German for "assembly." About 3,000 girl scouts and many leaders from 24 countries participated in the week-long event. It was a last symbolic show of unity and understanding on the eve of World War II. An exhibition was organized from materials submitted by girl guide troops. Its bulk consisted of folk art and decoration, besides scoutcraft from Hungary and abroad. The program of the main campfire was broadcast throughout the country by radio. After the camp, foreign girl guides led by Hungarian girls guides were taken on sight-seeing tours of Budapest.

The only other world camp of girl scouts was held in 1957 at Windsor, Great Britain. It paralleled the Boy Scout Jubilee Jamboree which was celebrating the centenary of Baden Powell's birth and the 50th anniversary of world scouting. The Hungarian delegation received a warm welcome from all British girl scout leaders remembering the Pax Ting.

Social work had always been an integral part of girl scout education. From the 1930's, all girl scout troops had participated in the *Vándorkosár* (gift basket) action at Christmas, which provided layettes for babies of poor families. In the early forties, the girl scouts initiated many more projects of social help. Troops sent packages of food, clothing, blankets, books, and toys to the families of soldiers, to Hungarians living in neighboring countries, and to needy peasant families. Girl scouts worked for the Red Cross, substituted at schools, directed playgroups, and helped in hospitals. They participated in civil defense practices, fire brigades, and first aid courses. In short, they did their best to help during those difficult years.

IV. GROWTH AND EXPANSION

The Third World Jamboree

The scouts of Great Britain had requested the privilege of organizing the Third World Jamboree, since it would mark the coming of age of scouting, to be celebrated at the birthplace of the movement. Arrowe Park, near Liverpool-Birkenhead, was chosen as the site of the Jamboree. The 21st anniversary of Scouting actually fell in 1928, but the Jamboree was postponed until 1929 so that it would not coincide with the Olympic Games.

The Jamboree differed from the previous ones. Its new goal was the strengthening of ties between scouts of various nations. Competitions were replaced by heartfelt togetherness. The ideals of scouting were central to the program of the camp. For this reason, outside visitors were allowed only in the afternoons.

The Hungarian contingent of 852 scouts arrived in Birkenhead after many months of thorough preparation. This show of force was a tremendous accomplishment at the time; it was the largest group of Hungarian scouts ever to have participated in a foreign camp. The boys and leaders were anxious to enhance the favorable image of Hungarian youth. Many hoped secretly that the honor of organizing the next world jamboree would be granted to the Hungarians. The contingent included a brass band, a string orchestra, a choir, and a folk dance and games group. It carried a large collection of artifacts for the exhibition. There were separate groups composed of troop leaders, patrol leaders, and sea scouts. A special press troop of scouts was on hand to write about the daily events to readers back home. The leader of the Hungarian delegation was Győző Temesy, under whose supervision not one of the scouts was injured or taken ill during the long journey and in the camp.

The Hungarian scouts became famous for their hats with *árvalányhaj* (feather grass) and for their brass band. They were also noted for their freshly washed and ironed uniforms, in defiance of frequent downpours and mud. Aware of the weather conditions in England, they had purposely brought three uniforms



Bird's eye view of the Jamboree.



Entrance gate of the Hungarian camp.



Opening ceremony. The Hungarian contingent is on the right.



Visit by the Chief Scout.



Lord Baden-Powell inspects the camp.



Hungarian Scout leaders in Oldham. Second from left: Antal Papp, at that time Associate President of the Hungarian Scout Association.



Hungarian Scouts in London, marching to the War Memorial.



Laying of a wreath at the War Memorial.

Arrowe Park 1929 International
 Birkenhead Boy Scout
 England Jamboree
 When Canadians were neighbours
 of Hungarian Scouts... It was then
 decided that the next Jamboree...
 be held in Hungary. The park of
 Gödöllő, near Budapest was set
 aside for this purpose, together with
 the Regent's castle where the former
 kings spent their summers. There are
 enormous preparations under way...



THE OVERSEAS EDUCATION LEAGUE Toronto-Winnipeg

Canadian Scout Newsletter, announcing the Fourth World Jamboree.

for each participant — one to wear, one as a spare, the third at the cleaners. Among the many groups the Hungarian Scouts befriended were the Scottish Scouts, who taught some of them to play the bagpipe. After a few days, the Hungarian scouts serenaded Lord Baden-Powell with bagpipes on the occasion of his birthday. The audience thought that the musicians were Scots, and no one discovered their real identity.

The Hungarian contingent was invited by the city of Oldham to a festive Hungarian Day. All work was suspended for that day; everyone was in the streets to greet the visitors. The town had a special coin minted to commemorate the event, and each of the Hungarian scouts was presented with one. After the formal ceremonies, the townspeople offered the guests their friendship and hospitality, food, drink, and flowers. When the eight-day camp ended, the Hungarian scouts went on to enjoy London through the generosity of Lord Rothermere, their English host, who provided accommodations and meals for the 852 scouts for an additional nine days. Each day, 32 buses took them sight-seeing in London and in the countryside. In Parliament, 50 members of the House of Commons provided personal tours, detailing the many stages of the law-making process. On the last night of their stay, Lord Rothermere presented each of the Hungarian scouts with a silver watch engraved with the words *Nehogy Londont elfeledd* ("Never forget London"). The young men who received them never forgot.

The Jamboree in England was a tremendous success for the Hungarians, who won the respect, admiration, and friendship of the British public and of scouts worldwide. One of the tangible results of the Jamboree was the election of Pál Teleki to the nine-member executive body of the world scouting movement, the World Committee.

The Young Adult Program

By this time, Hungarian scouting was commemorating its 20th anniversary, and a generation of young men had passed through the scouting program. Many of them were exploring seriously the possibilities of further involvement in scouting. Sándor Sík, one of Hungary's greatest scout educators, became increasingly

absorbed with the problems of these young adults, the scout alumni. He gathered observations, ideas, and potential answers to the question: how does the scout grown to adulthood become an active member of society at large and deal with the social problems he encounters?

The Hungarian scouts of the territories severed from the country, in Transylvania (Rumania) and in former Northern Hungary (Czechoslovakia), were also concerned with these issues. They were led by established writers and thinkers such as Zsolt Aradi (Northern Hungary) and Dezső Albrecht (Transylvania). At the time, a relatively free political climate existed in both countries; even crossing the borders into Hungary could be accomplished easily. Thus, exchange of ideas was possible.

As a result of innumerable serious discussions, a booklet was published with the title, *Fiatal Magyarság* (Young Hungarians), containing a collection of essays. They addressed current ethical, social, and national problems, and sought to provide moral guidance on many questions confronting youth. It amounted to a "creed of young Hungarian adults." Its co-authors included the most outstanding scout leaders: Pál Teleki, Sándor Sík, Kálmán Vidovszky, Zsolt Aradi, Dezső Major, and others. It went through several editions and reached a total printing of 150,000 copies. Its success inspired the start of a monthly publication, *Fiatal Magyarság*, geared to the needs and concerns of young adults who wanted to maintain ties to scouting. The editorial staff consisted of first-rate writers led by Sándor Sík and Pál Teleki. Folk culture and its preservation played a large role in the general direction of the publication; this aspect was of particular importance to Teleki, who envisioned an active organization of former scouts as a training ground for the future leaders of Hungary.

The Fourth World Jamboree in Hungary

The World Scout Conference in 1931 was to determine the host nation for the Fourth World Jamboree. Hungary submitted a proposal to organize the event, along with the United States, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, and other countries. Most Hungarian scout leaders favored the idea of a Jamboree in Hun-

gary. Others, such as Pál Teleki, were concerned; they were painfully aware that such events tended to become shows for visitors and rarely, if ever, contributed any spiritual depth and educational benefit.

The conference in Baden, Austria, awarded the privilege of organizing the Fourth World Jamboree to Hungary. The Hungarian scouts were pleased and proud to have been chosen. Hurdles were overcome despite the world economic depression because of the expertise of Antal Papp, the new president of the Association and former Secretary of Financial Affairs of Hungary, who directed fiscal planning and management. Pál Teleki agreed to be the camp chief. Ferenc Farkas became Teleki's deputy. He had distinguished himself already through his work with apprentice scouts and was a national co-chairman of the Scout Association.

The preparatory work spanned two years and involved many of the most experienced leaders of the Association. In order to prevent the planning committee from getting bogged down in bureaucratic difficulties, Pál Teleki was named a special government commissioner for the Jamboree (*Jamboree kormánybiztos*). This move resolved many jurisdictional misunderstandings and reconfirmed the idea that the Jamboree belonged to the whole nation. The initial tasks included choosing and surveying the campsite and working out technical aspects and means of supply. All basic requisites for a good site existed near Gödöllő, 20 miles from the capital, where the park and gardens of the government-owned castle were made available to the scouts. Facilities consisted of a large, shaded, level area that could accommodate 30,000 campers, with provisions for drinking water, transportation, and nearby food supplies. All of these features made the site a first-rate location for the Jamboree. Building and construction work at the site included the drilling of wells, the building of roads, and the training of the service troop that would be responsible for camp security and fire and water safety. Information of potential foreign visitors began early, in order to assure the representation of as many nations as possible. Public relations activities in Hungary made people aware of the extent and importance of the camp. Each foreign scout delegation would be invited to visit a Hungarian scout troop of its choice in its home environment, in order to provide further opportunities for making friends. Thus, visitors could meet the "average" Hungarian

"The noble ties of friendship will, I believe, become even stronger among you through this Fourth World Jamboree.

"I am convinced that the Jamboree will do much toward the promotion of good-will and peaceful cooperation, for the general good of humanity."

And with a sweep of the arm, which took in the arena and the park around it, he continued:

"The Hungarian nation offers you with love these wood-girt fields for your camping. The Hungarian nation welcomes you and your leader, the founder of the World Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell.

"Welcome to you all! I hope you will feel at home!"

As he finished his greeting to the boys of the world, the Regent lifted his hand in salute. Then, as he let it fall, he changed into Hungarian and spoke to his own Scouts, as their ruler and friendly adviser...

"To you, my sons, I shall speak separately. I am sure that you all feel the importance of this great event. From the four corners of the globe Scouts have assembled here. When they return home, they will spread at home the impressions they have gained.

"It is up to you, individually, to make these impressions favorable.

"Be all of you worthy of your reputation: modest, but possessed of proper pride—courteous and sympathetic.

"Much fun and good work, my boys!"

A great cheer rolled over the field. Then the Chief Scout of the world stepped up to the microphone.

All weather prophets shivered. They knew that according to the tradition of all previous Jamborees, the skies should open for a cloud-burst at the first sound of B. P.'s voice. The heavens looked dark enough, but to the great relief of all, not a single drop fell as Baden Powell started:

"Welcome to you all—my brother Scouts from all the world!"

"It is a real joy to me to see you all again, assembled here on the hospitable soil of Hungary.

"His Highness, the Regent, has done us a very high honor and through us, to our whole movement, by coming here in person to greet us. Further than this, he has also granted us the use of this beautiful park for our camping ground.

"You would naturally want to show your gratitude to him by cheering him and by waving your banners, but there is something he would value more highly than this. It is up to all of us—every Scout and Scouter—to show him, by our conduct here, that we do fully appreciate the honor he has done us and the belief he has shown in us.

"He will, I feel sure, like to see that you are not merely camping here for your health and amusement, as you could do anywhere but that you have come together here to make personal friendships with your brother Scouts of other nations, as peace-makers in the world."

B. P. stopped for a moment. Then he continued and his voice was stronger and his appeal more direct.

"Let me remind you that the days flit quickly by. There is no time to waste! Make the most of the few hours you are here in getting in touch with the other fellows.

"I do hope that each of you has a notebook in which to enter the names and addresses of the new friends you make each day, so that when you are back home again, you can continue to keep up the friendships by letters and if possible, by exchanging visits.

"I want to see men of all countries at peace with each other. You are the future men of your countries, so be friends!"

"You have a wonderful opportunity here to start such friendships. Make the most of it! Don't let a day pass without making new friends.

"Many of you have come very long distances to be here. I thank you for it. It shows your keenness as Scouts. And I thank you, Scouters, for bringing your lads, especially at such a difficult time. I hope you will all have a most enjoyable time!

"See all you can of this wonderful country while you are here. But above all: **MAKE FRIENDS!**"

So ended the welcome of the Chief Scout of the World. A miracle happened as he finished, for the sun broke through the dark clouds for a fleeting second and beamed on the thousands of Scouts, as they yelled their tumultuous applause.

Now, somewhere far up to our right, something started to move. The parade of the nations was on its way past the reviewing stand, where Admiral Horthy and B. P. stood at attention, and past the grandstand with its thousand of applauding visitors.

To the tune of Hungarian bands, the Scouts of the world marched by...

The success of the Jamboree, praised widely in the press abroad, attested to the thoroughness of preparation by Hungarian leaders and scouts and to the support of the Hungarian public. Favorable weather also helped.

The Jamboree newspaper called the chief of staff, Ferenc Farkas, the invisible power plant of the camp. He indeed played this role. He was responsible for food, lodging, entertainment, and generally the well-being of 30,000 people. The service troop under his supervision consisted of 485 scoutmasters, 499 rover scouts, and 1,265 scouts. Special dietary needs of various foreign groups, such as the Muslims and Hindus, were considered. The Jamboree was subdivided into 10 subcamps, in addition to several special subcamps accommodating visiting scouts, cub scouts, air

scouts, foreign scout leader delegations, and sea and river scouts. There was even a subcamp for deaf-mute scouts.

A committee, composed of 38 Budapest girl guides who spoke altogether 17 languages, was of assistance, visiting participants who fell ill during the Jamboree and had to be taken to clinics in Budapest; fortunately, only 14 scouts needed such services.

The Hungarian postal services issued a series of special stamps in honor of the Jamboree, among them the first air-mail scout stamps ever issued. The Jamboree mail service handled almost half a million letters. Hungarian radio broadcast 80 programs related to the Jamboree and forwarded thousands of personal radio messages. Railway transportation was efficient. During the 10 days of the Jamboree, 844 special trains passed through the station at Gödöllő.

The press service published 20,000 daily copies of the 24-page *Magyar Cserkész* (Hungarian Scout). Every page carried articles and captions in English, French, German, Polish, and Hungarian. The paper contained, in addition to the articles published simultaneously in several languages, a "national corner" in which each national delegation, regardless of its size, could communicate in its own language. Some of these articles had to be prepared as plates because the printer was not equipped with Arabic or Sanscrit type. The goal of the paper was to appeal to everybody. It was a success, albeit costly in terms of man-hours of the editorial staff. The editor wrote:

"The Jamboree is a hardfisted slave-driver that squeezes everything out of you. To be sure, it gives, in return, a great deal of pure happiness."

The shopping district of the camp (scout exhibitions, theater, bank) was designed to serve 30,000 inhabitants and 40 to 50,000 daily visitors. To ensure that it would be esthetically pleasing and harmonious with the master plan of the camp, the architect and scout leader, Alfréd Bardon, was chosen as its designer. The exhibition was housed in three sizable halls. The displays were handled by a special section of the service troop, who spent five days setting up the exhibition. Two of the halls were filled with Hungarian materials, while the third contained exhibits from about 20 foreign countries.

In accordance with the scout laws, religious observances constituted an important part of the camp. Christian church

services were led by bishops and senior ministers of the various denominations were represented. Jewish services were held. The Muslim rites were led by their high priest. The Muslim participants initially wanted to hold their services in a secluded clearing in the woods. They objected to photography; two films had to be destroyed to comply with their request.

Glimpses of life in the camp can be savored in a description from William Hillcourt's book:

We slipped into the Australian camp to get a good look at the many boomerangs they had brought along to the delight of all the boys of other countries and found that we had arrived at the psychological moment. The cooks were yelling, "Come and get it" and we were invited to join them, an invitation we greatly appreciated. This sight-seeing sure does things to your appetite!

We were seated and the pots were brought around.

One of the fellows, with knitted brow, yelled in a stentorian voice:

"What!!!! No paprika???"

Whereupon the rest of them broke into a loud chorus to a not entirely unfamiliar tune:

*"Yes, we have no paprika
We have no paprika today!
We've goulash and onions
And veal stew and bunions
And ten tons of bread and say —
We have Admiral Horthy tomatoes,
Baden Powell potatoes!
But, yes, we have no paprika,
We have no paprika today!"*

That was a jolly meal, in real Boy Scout spirit, and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. We soon discovered that we were not the only strangers present. A Swede, an Austrian, a black boy from Jamaica, a brown from nearby Cairo and a New Zealander were in the party too.

During the meal, paprika had been on the tongue of every one, yet not literally, so it was no wonder that when the party was over, a few of us set out to hunt for the famous paprika bird, which we knew was supposed to be in hiding some place in the vicinity.

We stalked through half of England, where, everywhere, everything ended in shire — Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Lancashire, Devonshire, until we finally located our bird.

It was sitting there, perched in its cage, the only specimen in captivity. A mighty sign under it announced "DANGER! Don't feed the birdie." It didn't look very dangerous, though, but rather sad, with its green

head, red body and a drooping, bushy tail. But then it was only man-made, of a green and a red paprika, put together by wires and provided with a tuft of Arvalanyhaj...

A short stop-over in Jugoslavia — just step-in and say hello — and we arrived in Finland.

Three mighty white stags, executed with imagination and lots of skill, of rough birch logs in various thicknesses, formed an attractive center display in the camp. Small shields with inscriptions were fastened onto them. One said *Suomi* for Finland, another *Eesti* for Estonia. The third wore the name of the host country, *Magyarország*, the Hungarian name for Hungary.

We found out that two of the Finnish Scouts had arrived at the Jamboree in canoes.

The trip took them two months. They started in June from their home town up in the lake district and stopped in Helsingfors for a short while before they attempted the most dangerous part of the trip, the crossing of the Baltic from Finland to Estonia. From here they continued along the Baltic shores to Danzig, shot up the Weizel River into Poland, then along the Vág into the Danube which finally brought them to Budapest.

They made the trip as real Scouts, camping on the way in a small tent, and making their own food.

The canoes they had presented to the Hungarian Sea Scouts since they themselves were returning to their contingent.

That wasn't the only display of pluck shown among the Scouts going to the Jamboree. We later heard of two French Scouts who also took an inland voyage by canoe, of three Norwegian Scouts bicycling from their home land, and even of one of our own American Scouts who had undertaken a pre-Jamboree bicycle journey through Northern Europe.

But undoubtedly the Finnish adventure was the most difficult of them all.

Bulgaria was our next port of call. Just for a moment, though, because the big wind mill of the Hungarian Troop from Szentes had to be photographed before the last rays of day had disappeared.

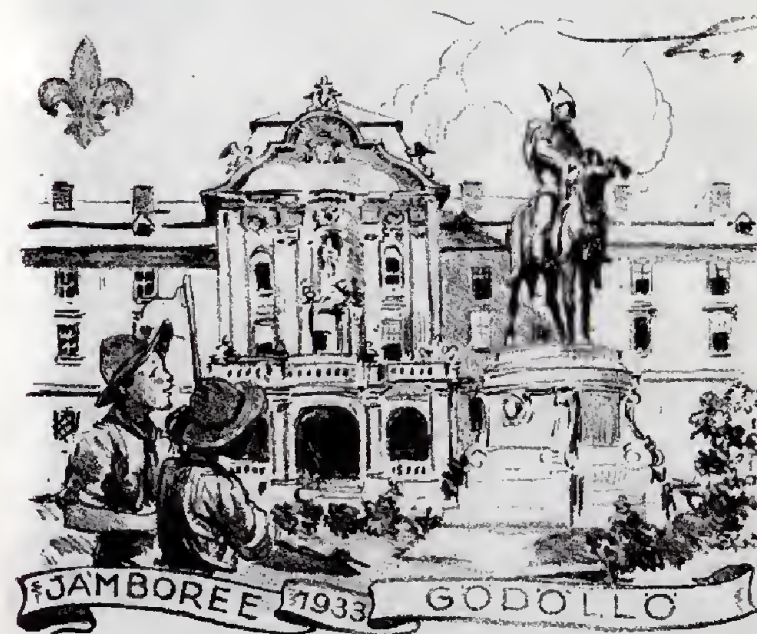
Walking over to it we found ourselves stopping time and time again to admire the handiwork of the Hungarian Scouts and the patience with which they had spent all their spare time for months before the Jamboree in making it truly the show place of the world.

Here was the peasant hut of Szeged with its boy-made furnishings in old Magyar style, here was the elaborate woodwork of the boys of Makó and the painted castle wall representing the town of Gyula.

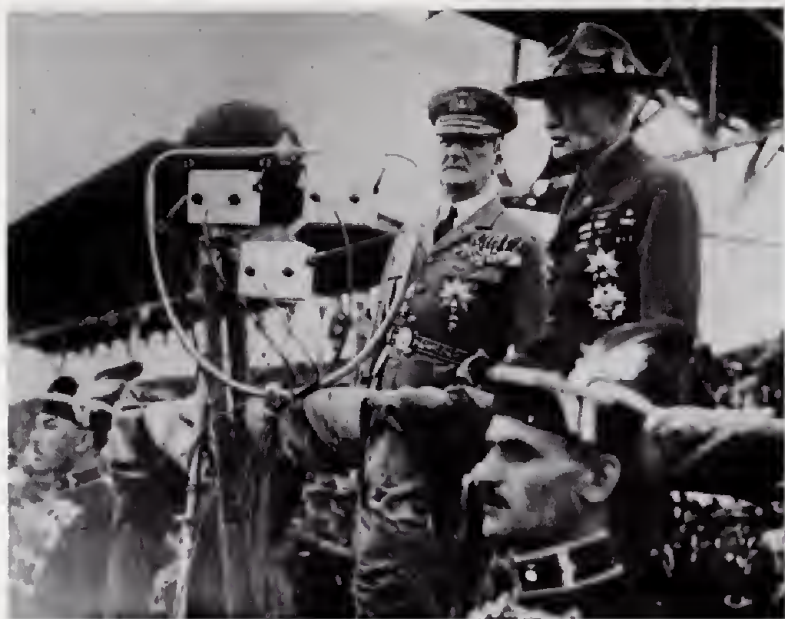
And then suddenly we remembered many more of the gorgeous gateways and camp decorations of our hospitable Hungarian friends, which



Envelope sold at the Jamboree, designed by Lajos Márton.



The castle at Gödöllő. Drawing by Lajos Márton.



Opening ceremony, Regent Miklós Horthy of Hungary and Lord Baden-Powell on the platform.



International friendship.



Syrian scouts with the camel, their famous gift to the Jamboree.



Indian dance, performed by the American Scouts.



Entrance gate of the U.S.A. contingent.



Scouts of Egypt and Iraq.

Az időjárás

Prognózis. Augusztus. 3. 12 óra:
Változó felhőzet, több helyen még eső.
A hőmérőket lassan emelkedése.

L'un des Chefs de la Police du camp nous dit...

Vous savez tous, je pense, que les Eclaireurs hongrois qui portent un brassard orange avec une lettre verte „R” sont chargés de la police du camp.

Il y en a un grand nombre car leur service est considérable et ils doivent veiller en permanence sur l'immense ville de toile occupée par les scouts des divers pays.

Je suis allé questionner l'un de leurs chefs et avec l'aide d'un interprète lésévois nous sommes arrivés à échanger notre conversation:

— Etes vous contents de la façon dont marche le service de police?

Das heilige Kreuz im Lager Österreichs

Wer das Lager der österreichischen Pfadfinder besucht, der wird sicher ein gewisses Kreuz mit dem gekreuzigten Heiland und der Dornenkrone auf dem Haupt bemerken, das an Bäumen befestigt am Waldrande steht. Dieses Kreuz hat eine eigenartige Geschichte. Vor über hundert Jahren, während des Tiroler Freiheitskampfes wurde dieses Kreuz von den Bürgern der Stadt Hall in Tirol als Feldzeichen vortragen. Nachher stand es in der alten Kirche der kleinen Bergstadt Hall und erst vor zwei Jahren wurde es endlich der tausendjährigen Sankt Emmerich-Fest von den aus Tirol kommenden Katholiken nach Budapest mitgenommen. Hier blieb es im Besitz von Exzellenz Fürst, der es dem Jahrbüro der österreichischen Pfadfinder aus Verfügung stellte. Und so kommt es, dass heute das Nachkommen jener Tiroler, die einst dieses Kreuz in die hiesige Schlichte mitnahmen, auf dem friedlichen Welttreffen der Jugend aller Länder ihre Andacht vor diesem ehrwürdigen Kreuzlein verrichten.

Gödöllő has it's day

Gödöllő, you are certainly your day — for a fortnight's vast metropolis, known through world — from now on your ring down through the page story.

What do we think about visitors from afar, used to the ring hubbub of mighty cities.

With a grand gesture you t yourself in raiment bright and bed and polished. Budapest has quota to help you bear the our day.

We smile, perhaps, at some foods; we smile, perhaps, quaint costumes, your trains, bits.

But believe me, we are grt your hospitality, your welc

A multilingual page from the daily newspaper,
Jamboree Magyar Cserkész.



The shopping district of the Jamboree. Drawing by Lajos Márton.



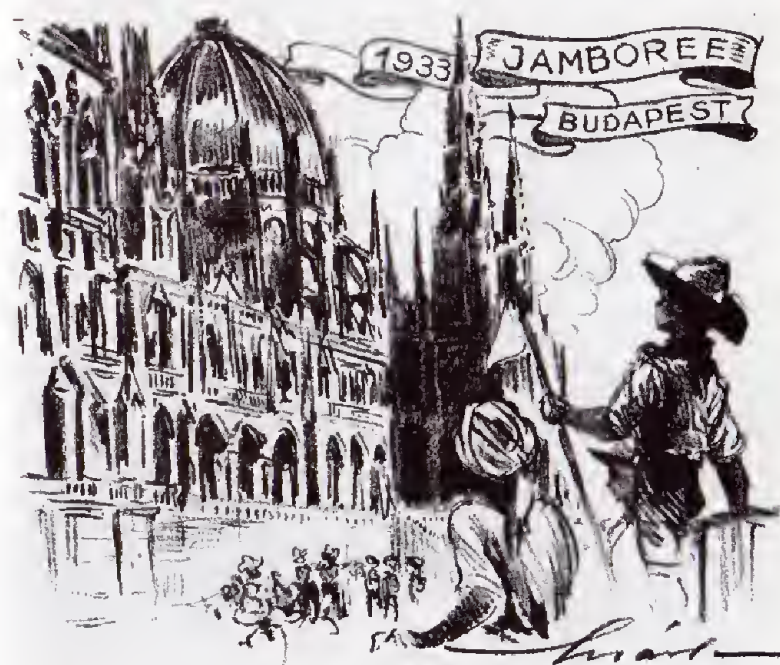
Entrance gate of the French contingent.



Tyrolian Scouts came with their pilgrimage cross.



Castle Vajdahunyad in Budapest. Part of a set of souvenir drawings by Lajos Márton, created for the Jamboree.



Parliament House in Budapest. Part of the souvenir set by Lajos Márton.



Austrian Scout band.



A typical Hungarian peasant house, erected at the Jamboree.

we had hardly stopped to look at on our quest through the world but which nevertheless had registered deeply in our minds.

The mighty straw hat — size four feet eight — which dominated the entrance to the camp of Troop 359, the fish net gateway to the Lake Balaton camp, and the enormous size honey cake man in front of still another. The ingenious gateway and fence of the "Rákóczi" Music Troop, the gateway made of two big flutes, and the fence consisting of five strands of wire with the first bars of the Rákóczi March in notes formed of thin, cross-cut slices of a birch log for heads and small branches for stems. There was the gateway of folding boats made by a Sea Scout Crew, the chains of carved wood surrounding the camp of a Budapest Troop.

But it is impossible to describe all of the ingenious and beautiful work of the Hungarian Scouts. Suffice it to say that they had done their best — and that their best was excellent.

Seven hundred Scouts of Austria had arrived at the Jamboree. But then they belonged to the nearest neighbor country to Hungary and only had to cross the border or take the Danube boat from Vienna.

And so the world came to an end. And how appropriate that our last stop was the camp of the Russian Emigrant Scouts of Budapest and Bucharest. For them, the world had truly come to an end — the world that they used to know. Their Russia is no more. Their leader, an old Russian priest, invited us to come to see his troop in Budapest after the Jamboree. We thanked him... but we couldn't have done it.

We had been around the world in one day. We had visited our Brother Scouts of all races.

It had been a wonderful experience, an inspiration. The greatness of our movement had been brought home to us more forcibly than ever before.

As we walked through the castle gate and through Denmark, a fairy-land opened itself for us. A full moon was sailing over the camp, a light fog hung over the grass and all around us were the bright sparkles of many small fires. Somewhere, maybe from France, we heard on singing around one of the big camp fires.

Day was done... and tomorrow would be another glorious Jamboree day."

"On our way home, as we passed through the Copenhagen gate, we met a group of Americans going the other way.

"Where are you going?" we asked.

"Want to come along? We're off to the flying field!"

My, we had almost forgotten! Yet every day we had seen the airplanes and gliders swooping over the camp. They had performed for us over the arena and we had been told that this was the first Jamboree to include a group of flying Scouts.

We immediately turned around and joined the company.

The flying camp itself was situated on a hillside, in a group of locust trees. Five wooden hangars faced down the slope to the flying field and near them were the three big tents housing the gliders and the sail planes.

Altogether five Scout airplanes and sixteen gliders (five Polish, one Austrian, and the rest Hungarian) were here — the wings of the one hundred and fifty Scouts in the camp.

As we approached, a glider was being towed up into the air by a plane. When it gained sufficient height, it left its "parent" and set out on its own. Daringly, it circled over the field, using every air current to raise itself even higher, then decided to return and came down to the ground in a perfect, easy landing. The whole thing looked so simple.

"It is!" explained the Hungarian Scout who had just landed, as we went up to admire his craft.

We had approached a big glider — its wing spread was more than twenty yards — which was being pushed into position. A Scout emblem was painted on it together with its name, "Karakán" — the brave.

"We are very proud of that plane and its master!" continued our friend. "It is entirely a Scout built plane and has already broken two Hungarian glider records!"

"The previous records were a distance of 36 kilometers and a height of 1,139 meters. The first Monday of the Jamboree, Rotter Lajos stayed up until he had flown 84 kilometers and had reached a height of 2,350 meters, almost a mile and a half!"

Meanwhile the airplane which had pulled up the glider of our friend, was attached to the "Karakán." Rotter Lajos took his place at the controls and he was on his way.

It gave us a tremendous thrill to see him cast off his connection, circle, raise and disappear over the Jamboree camp, soaring like an eagle over the tree tops...

Colonel John S. Wilson, former Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, also recounts several episodes of the Jamboree in *Scouting Round the World*:

"The language of our hosts, Magyar, is known to very few outside Hungary, with the possible exception of Estonia and Finland. Language difficulties were overcome by 'Jamborese,' by a Scout dictionary in English, French, German and Hungarian, and by an interpreters' corps of 'Cousins' attached to each contingent and available day and night."

It is recorded in *Jamboree Story*:

"The Chief was struck with the picturesque beauty of the gateways erected, particularly those of the Hungarian Troops. It was difficult at times to get him to tear himself away from some of these, and his

sketch-book carried many pages of drawings. Family pride was aroused when his son Peter dashed up one morning, full of joy, because he had been selected to carry the flag of St. George in front of the English contingent at that afternoon's march past.

There was a more poignant moment to come:

One day positions were reversed, and the people of Hungary paraded on the rally ground before the Scouts. The *Scout Jamboree Book* of the Boy Scouts of America records the final scene:

'The unforgettable demonstration was over, and B.-P. stepped down from the platform. He was about to step into his car, when a simple peasant woman made her way through the crowd around him and presented him with a tremendous spray of flowers. As he received it with a smile and a "Köszönöm" — the Hungarian word for "Thank you" — she bent down, impulsively seized his hand in her coarse hands and kissed it again and again, as tears streamed down her cheeks.'

I have heard the Chief laugh off many a tribute, but he was completely silent in the car for a long time after that one, for he recognized sincerity when he saw it."

Colonel Wilson also described problems that arose on the international level in this period.

"The 1933 World Jamboree and International Conference were held concurrently at Gödöllő in Hungary — the former, as is proper, distracting attention and importance from the latter. It was a sign of the times that the Conference passed this resolution: 'This Conference again invites attention to the fact that political propaganda of any character, direct or indirect, national or international, must not be permitted in any camp or Scout gathering in which representatives of other nations are invited to attend.'

Many other problems were discussed. The question of handicapped Scouts again came to the fore. Louis Picalausa, the present head of the Junior Red Cross in Belgium, challenged us to 'apply ourselves to this work with the assurance that in so doing we shall not only serve our beloved Movement, but also the cause of those unfortunate children.' Dr. Svojsik, Chief Scout of Czechoslovakia, spoke with great force and sincerity on 'Once a Scout, always a Scout'; 'What significance an association of ex-Scouts scattered today throughout the world have for the ultimate aims of the great work initiated by our Chief, Lord Baden Powell!' Lord Hampton gave an outline of the 'Old Scout' scheme under consideration in Great Britain. The fruition of this scheme was long delayed, owing to lack of suitable leadership and to misgivings as to its reactions on Scouting for boys.

Count Paul Teleki, of whom I shall have more to say later, was the Camp Chief of the Jamboree and proved a most able and courteous



Emblem of the Fourth World Jamboree: the White Stag of Hungary.

host. He was aided by the Hungarian International Commissioner, Dr. Fritz de Molnar. The Regent, Admiral Horthy, was in residence at the Royal Hunting Lodge, and presided at the opening ceremony, riding round the ranks of the 30,000 Scouts from some fifty different parts of the world on his big white horse. B. P. was crippled with rheumatism, and we had to hoist him on to his brown charger. But the ride did him good, and, despite the shorts, he often rode round the camp the following days accompanied by Paul Teleki, Fritz and myself."

In the thirties, an era of increasing nationalistic tensions, it had been doubted widely whether boys from different nations would be able to camp together in peace. The Jamboree dispelled these doubts. It presented scouts with an opportunity to become familiar with some 30 to 40 different national groups with various languages and customs in an atmosphere of healthy respect for each other. Hungarian government officials stated after Gödöllő: "Through their distinguished behavior, the Hungarian scouts

have performed an invaluable service to the nation." In addition to its importance for Hungary, the Jamboree was a cross section of world scouting. The 30,000 participants in the Jamboree represented 5 continents, 14 religions, 30 languages and 54 nationalities.

If an organization is dedicated to serving others, its success is measured not in terms of individual achievement, but of group efforts.

Thus the success of the Jamboree must not be credited to individuals but to the participants' ability to work with each other. Baden-Powell expressed this idea at the close of the Jamboree in his farewell message.

The Chief Scout's Farewell

"Let us pause for one moment for each of us silently to thank God for bringing us together as a happy family at Gödöllő.

My brothers, those of you who were at the last Jamboree in England will remember how the Golden Arrow was handed out to each country as a symbol of Goodwill flying forth to all the ends of the earth through the Brotherhood of Scouting.

Now at Gödöllő we have another symbol. Each one of you wears the badge of the White Stag of Hungary. I want you to treasure that badge when you go from here and to remember that, like the Golden Arrow, it also has its message and its meaning for you.

The Hungarian hunters of old pursued this miraculous Stag, not because they expected to kill it, but because it led them on in the joy of the chase to new trails and fresh adventures and so to capture happiness. You can look on that White Stag as the pure spirit of Scouting, springing forward and upward, ever leading you onward and upward to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures in your active pursuit of the higher aims of Scouting — aims which bring you happiness.

Those aims are to do your duty wholeheartedly to God, to your country, and to your fellow men by carrying out the Scout Law. In that way you will, each one of you, be helping to bring about God's kingdom upon earth — the reign of peace and goodwill.

Therefore, before leaving you, I ask you Scouts this question: Will you do your best to make friendship with others and peace in the world?"

V. NEW DIRECTIONS

Internal Renewal

As soon as the gates of Gödöllő closed, Scout leaders were already searching for new goals. They sought to assess the weaknesses and strengths of the movement. Taking stock became a necessary task for the further development of Hungarian scouting. The Jamboree had been until then the greatest single effort of the Hungarian scouts. Its success was recognized universally, but there was a need to identify shortcomings as well.

It could be foreseen that an anticlimatic mood would affect scouts, the government, and the nation. Government agencies and local institutions had helped generously. Not surprisingly, they were wearied and displayed less enthusiasm than before in dealing with scouting. Many scouts and leaders became overconfident. There was a danger that formal trappings and public appearances would seem more important than the fundamental educational aspects of scouting. Countering such trends, national leadership initiated a reassessment of the internal directions of the movement. Fortunately, the need for introspection was felt by both scoutmasters and scouts. They all turned with renewed enthusiasm to the task of determining the new responsibilities of scouting.

The time was also ripe for modernization of the training program, which until then had been modeled closely on the structure provided by Lord Baden-Powell. The leadership undertook the task of enriching the program with distinctly Hungarian features. Inspired by the *falukutatók* (village explorers), a group of folklorists and populist writers who were largely former scouts, the scouting program turned to the study and preservation of folk tradition.

Leadership training became more intense. The number of trainees was increased, and the quality of their training was improved. Over 1,000 patrol leaders and 250 scoutmasters received their training at the Hárshegy scout park in 1935. The by-laws of the Association were also revised and updated. The country had only a few thousand scouts when the first by-laws were written

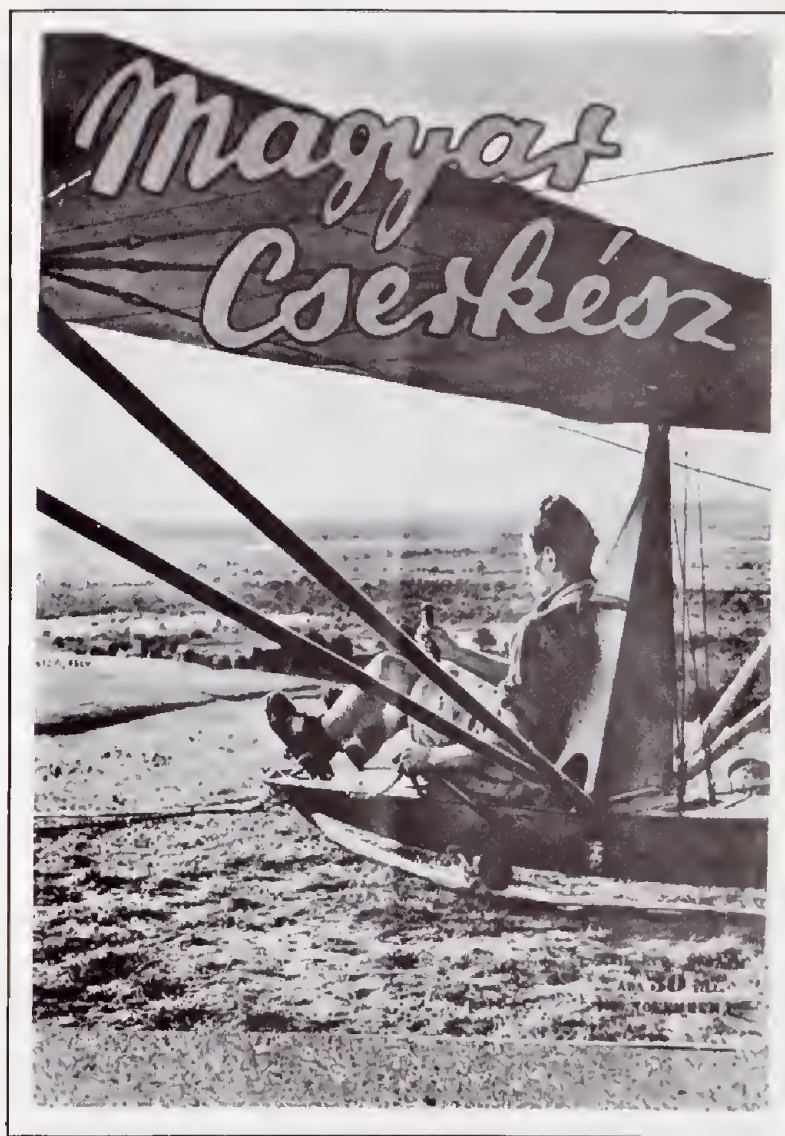
in 1920. Fifteen years later, membership had mushroomed to 50,000. It was obvious that organizational forms conceived for a small organization were no longer adequate for current needs.

Viewed from a perspective of 40 to 50 years, the process of revitalizing the Association might appear straightforward. Actu-



Caricature of Count Pál Teleki as a village explorer.

ally, several divergent trends developed. Representatives of one direction were Sándor Sík, Pál Teleki, and Dezső Major, who expressed concern over the emphasis on external appearances during the Jamboree. As soon as the Jamboree was over, they urged a turn towards spiritual values, with renewed emphasis on educational activities. Followers of the other school of thought, led by Győző Temesy, Ferenc Farkas, and Béla Kolozsváry, among others, also maintained that the ideals of scouting should remain intact, but they proposed that the program of scouting ought to be broadened and scouts should also participate in other,



Title page of *Magyar Cserkész* featuring a scout glider.

not strictly scout-related, activities. This group proposed the modernization of the training program and recommended that scouting should aim not only at character-building but also at

providing the skills necessary for serving Hungary directly; that is, scouts should seek an active role in the creation of a better future for the country. They should not only preserve the intellectual treasures of Hungary, but also spread them. Both schools of thought exerted a strong influence on scouting.

The principal publication of the Hungarian Scout Association, *Magyar Cserkész*, was made available at a few cents per issue, so that anyone could afford to buy it. A new series of inexpensive scout books was initiated.

A gliding program for scouts, developed in earlier years on the Hármashatárhegy Mountain near Budapest, was expanded. Hangars were acquired by the scouts in 1934.

Ferenc Farkas and Frigyes Molnár were awarded the "Silver Fox" medal by Lord Baden-Powell. They received it for their meritorious activities in international relations.

The activities of the HÖK, the elite group of patrol leaders, were intensified. It developed into a training team. The service it provided at Gödöllő significantly enhanced its reputation. Initially, only the 100 best patrol leaders could belong to the team. When the unit came under the leadership of Béla Kolozsváry, these rules were modified and membership grew. The team which had been limited mainly to Budapest, expanded its activity to the entire country. HÖK members annually received special training at camps held at the end of the summer. Thus, they would be well prepared at the beginning of the scouting year (in September) to help in patrol leader courses and training programs. The HÖK camps required serious physical, intellectual, and emotional commitment. Besides a thorough knowledge of scouting skills, the participants also obtained instruction in folk art, folk culture, and current national affairs.

HÖK became, in effect, the backbone of scouting leadership. It provided a rallying ground for young scout leaders imbued by fervent patriotism and willing to make sacrifices for their ideals. Its members spearheaded the drive to establish a base in folk culture for scouting activities. At the same time, they were the sparks of a spiritual renewal and of intellectual resistance against foreign ideologies during and after the war years. In fact, the spirit of the HÖK has been a main guiding force in the development of Hungarian scouting ever since.

Successes Abroad

The Hungarians sent a representation of 350 scouts to the Polish national camp in Spala in 1935. In a sense, this had been expected of them, because the Polish contingent at Gödöllő had been second in size only to the British group. Moreover, close ties of friendship had linked Hungarian and Polish scouts ever since the



Entrance gate of the Hungarian camp at the Polish National Jamboree at Spala, 1935.

Second World Jamboree in Denmark in 1924. Pál Teleki, the leader of the Hungarian representation, was assisted by the president of the association, Antal Papp.

The well-known scout artist, Lajos Márton, painted a portrait of the Polish patriot, Josef Pilsudski, of legendary fame. The painting was presented to the Polish scouts by the Hungarian con-



Hungarian scouts in front of the Czestochowa pilgrimage church in Poland.

tingent. Just at the time of the Jamboree at Spala, the creation of a monument to Pilsudski started as a Polish national campaign. Every Pole who traveled in the area took a wheelbarrow of earth to the memorial mound. The Hungarians followed their example. Led by Pál Teleki, 100 scouts transported as many wheelbarrows of earth to the monument of the Polish national hero. This period witnessed a culmination of friendly ties between the two nations. The Poles themselves recalled proudly the numerous historical links between Poland and Hungary. It is understandable, then, that the Hungarian scouts received an enthusiastic welcome from their hosts and from the people of Poland.

Exchanging gifts and autographs was just as intense at Spala as it had been at the Jamboree in Gödöllő. The most sought-after item was the feather grass that the Hungarians wore on their hats. The Hungarian scout store is reported to have sold 200 kg in the first few days of the camp. Additional supplies had to be brought in by plane. The Poles could not believe that it was a plant; they called it *peric*, i.e. "feather."

The Czechoslovak representation at the camp included several Hungarian Scouts, members of the Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia. One of them regularly sent reports to the scout magazine



Opening ceremony of the Fifth World Jamboree at Ermelunden in the Netherlands, 1937. Royal Prince Knut, youngest son of the King, declares the camp open. At the right: Pál Telei, Antal Papp, Frigyes Molnár.

of his home troop. The camp administration issued him a badge inscribed "prasa," the Polish word for press. The badge served the scout reporter well everywhere except when he returned to his own group: he had to endure permanent teasing by his fellows because *prasa* in Slovak means "pig."

One of the last highlights in the interwar history of scouting was the Fifth World Jamboree in Vogelenzang, the Netherlands, in 1937. The Hungarian contingent, led by Béla Kolozsváry, was prepared thoroughly, using the techniques that had worked



Carved chair, made by the young workers in the Hungarian scout troop of Érsekújvár (Nové Zámky, Czechoslovakia).

so well on previous occasions. The selection and preparation of participants had begun a year in advance.

The arrival of over 500 Hungarian scouts in the Netherlands was awaited eagerly not only by the organizers and other scout groups, but also by a Dutch group of former foster parents. Following the end of World War I, thousands of Hungarian children escaped the misery of depressed economic conditions in Hungary through an opportunity to stay with families in the Netherlands and Belgium. Many children had lived for several years with their foster parents. One of the organizers of this foster-parent movement, Walle Von Popta, eighty years old at the time of the writing of this history, still remembered the Hungarian children fondly.

The exceptional welcome extended to the Hungarian contingent was elicited largely by their fame as the organizers of the Fourth World Jamboree. Consequently, the Hungarians were expected to perform in an exceptional manner. Luckily, no one was disappointed. In particular, the Hungarian campfires were thought to have a unique magical quality, offering not only entertainment but also edification.

The Hungarian scouts offered an outstanding pageant in the presence of the Dutch royal couple. They presented Queen Wilhelmina with a giant honey-cake heart, in gratitude for the unprecedented sacrifice and kindness of the Dutch foster parents. Smaller honey-cake hearts were presented to other Dutch guests. The presentation ended with the Dutch national anthem sung by the Hungarians. The royal couple was so touched that Prince Bernhard returned to the camp the next day to thank the Hungarian scouts.

Scouting and Young Workers

The scouting organization shouldered another new task in the years following Gödöllő. From its very start, scouting had extended its programs to blue-collar workers and apprentices; there were entire troops of blue-collar youth that were sponsored by vocational schools or industrial plants. The need was felt, however, to extend the benefits of scouting to a wider group, even to those young people who did not want to embrace all aspects

of scouting. Therefore, in the mid-1930's, the Scout Association began to organize vacation camps for apprentices and young workers who were not scouts. Such camps had been held earlier on an experimental basis, but now the *Országos Társadalombiztosító Intézet* (Hungarian Social Insurance Institute) granted ample means for such vacation camps. Scouts and leaders volunteered to organize these camps, in expression of their ideal to serve the entire youth of Hungary. The number of participants grew progressively after 1935, reaching many thousands. A further problem, that of extending scouting into the villages and rural areas, was explored in a tentative manner. After some successful and laudable initiatives, the upheavals following World War II put an end to these efforts.

Minority Scouts

After World War I, large areas of Hungary with considerable Hungarian-speaking populations were annexed to Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia. In these regions, it was still possible for Hungarian youth to carry on with Scouting using the Hungarian language and Scout traditions. During the 1920's and 30's, national minorities were generally treated more humanly than nowadays, and nowhere was this more evident than in Scouting. Thus, Hungarian Scouts in Czechoslovakia operated as an autonomous unit of the Czechoslovak Scout Association, under the leadership of József Mrenna.

Similar organizational forms of Scouting existed in many countries with large national minorities. The Fourth International Boy Scout Conference, held in 1926 at Kandersteg, Switzerland, adopted a special resolution recommending that minority scout troops should be allowed to operate autonomously, using their own language. The text of the resolution states the following:

"The Conference earnestly exhorts the National Boy Scout Associations in countries where there are minorities to give these minorities the right to form Scout Troops, which, while belonging to the National Association and subject to their statutes, have the right to use their own language in their inner life and to nominate their own Scoutmasters and leaders, who, however, must be citizens of the State."



Leaders of the Hungarian autonomous unit of the Czechoslovak Scout Association.

Pál Teleki, who at that time was already a highly respected member of the Boy Scouts International Committee, and Frigyes Molnár, International Commissioner of Hungary, were instrumental in formulating this resolution.

Reunion with the Scouts of Northern Hungary

In 1938, part of Northern Hungary was reunited with Hungary. Scout troops in the area were visited by scouts from Hungary. The Hungarian scouts who had lived for 20 years under foreign rule were presented with scout equipment and books, and had an opportunity to renew their Hungarian scout oath.

The reunion of youth produced many memorable experiences. The participants in the visits could note that young Hungarians in Northern Hungary were more conscious of their national identity and were more cohesive than Hungarians living within the former borders. They had learned what it meant to live without a homeland. Moreover, they had realized immediately after the

change of sovereignty in 1920 that the forces threatening their ethnic identity could be countered only through mutual understanding and common effort. As a result, their communities were free of dissension and social conflict.

The Hungarian minorities in all the annexed areas fought hard to maintain their ethnic identity, pooling their resources to counteract the ever-worsening conditions around them. Most were willing to disregard rank, power, and wealth for the benefit of fellow Hungarians and the common Hungarian cause.

Local leaders, educated youth in particular, reached out for every member of the national minority, especially in the villages. They went among those who had lost hope and had become demoralized; they organized cultural presentations and service camps; they strengthened each other in the awareness of their ethnic identity.

Scouting in Transylvania

Between the two world wars, scouting was for some time the only institution in Transylvania in which Hungarian students and workers could experience Hungarian community life without Rumanian supervision. The Hungarian scouts in Transylvania maintained strong ties with the organization in Hungary proper by means of participation in jamborees, correspondence, and through scout publications. Both had the same organizational structure, practical training, traditions, and spirit. The Hungarian scouts in Transylvania belonged to the Rumanian Scouts Association, yet their activities resembled the Hungarian Scouting movement to a much greater degree than it did Rumanian scouting.

The Hungarian scout troops in Transylvania organized annual camps, preferably in the Székely region. The scout troop of the Roman Catholic Secondary School in Kolozsvár was the unofficial guiding force. It stood out in its internal organization, practical scouting knowledge, and in the sheer number of its members and supporters. Its troopmaster was the tireless Lajos Puskás, a highly respected teacher. He created an effective patrol leader training system in Transylvania by the 1930's, without a formal framework. Every year, the Kolozsvár scout troupe

invited five to ten boys from each of the other troops in Transylvania to its summer camp. Participants were usually patrol leaders, accompanied by their scoutmasters. The camps were actually training sessions for each leadership level.

A National Jamboree organized in Brassó (Brasov) in 1936 was the swan song of the Rumanian Scout Association. The organization was officially abolished in 1937. King Carol established in its place a "National Guard Youth Organization," patterned after the Iron Guard, an extreme right-wing nationalistic organization in Rumania and made it obligatory for all young people. This move was a mortal blow to Hungarian youth organizations in Transylvania. Scouting had offered a place for Hungarian youths to educate themselves while helping others, learn folksongs, trace the history of scattered Hungarian settlements such as that of the Csángós in Moldavia, and recite the folk ballads of the Székelys. These opportunities ended.

Scouting activities continued underground for one or two years after the organization was disbanded, without uniforms or emblems. Scout camping was outlawed, but some scouts outmaneuvered the authorities by organizing long-range hikes. Scouting revived after Northern Transylvania was reunited with Hungary in 1940.

Scouts in Southern Hungary

The return of the Bácska area from Yugoslavia to Hungary in 1941 took place during a period of turmoil and received less attention in general than the return of Northern Hungary in 1938 and of Transylvania in 1940. The transition nonetheless inspired notable scout contributions. As a result of tireless campaigning by Kálmán Németh, pastor of the village of Istensegits, and skillful negotiations on the part of two prime ministers, Pál Teleki and later of László Bárdossy, the Hungarians living in isolation in the Rumanian region of Bukovina were given an opportunity to resettle in Southern Hungary. From 1942 to 1944, numerous scout summer camps were held in the resettlement area. The scouts took part in the everyday activities of the village and they organized activities for the village youth of the newly settled

groups. These camps reinforced the fellowship between the resettled Hungarians and the mother country. With forethought, scout leaders sent troops from Transylvania to these camps. It was reasoned that those who had experienced Rumanian occupation firsthand and had just been reunited with the mother country would be best suited to help the new settlers.



Delegation of over-seas scout leaders visit Cleveland's great Magyar daily. The cancellation of the American Scout Jamboree at Washington, D.C., owing to a paralysis epidemic, found the Hungarian Scout Delegation on the high seas. But the Magyar Scouts at least saw the United States for themselves, visiting some of the large centers and historic spots, and, of course, Boy Scout camps. Here they are photographed in the editorial offices of the "Szabadság" daily at Cleveland. From left to right: Paul John Petheő, editor-in-chief; Dr. Nicholas Handlovits, Regnum Marianum Scout leader, Budapest; Professor Bernardin Pálos, S.O. Cist., Zirc; Dr. Edgar Nagel, head of the Delegation; Herbert L. Kobraák, general manager, Consolidated Press; Harry L. Davis, former mayor of Cleveland; Dr. Alexander Pohl, chief of Gödöllő municipality; Professor Andrew Szold, M.D.; and Dr. Kapistran Hegyi, O.S.B.

Scouts Serve at the Eucharistic Congress

In 1938, Budapest was the site of the Ninth Eucharistic Congress of the Roman Catholic Church. The Scout Association was invited to assist in the organization of this event. Ferenc Farkas, who had been chief of staff of the Gödöllő Jamboree, was asked to plan and direct the logistics of the Congress. The scouts posted honor guards, took charge of souvenir sales, organized welcoming committees, and guided foreign guests. Over 6,000 scouts were involved in such activities. Contemporary Hungarian and foreign newspaper reports indicated that the scouts lived up to expectations. This service was considered one of the outstanding "good deeds" of the movement.

VI.

AT THE CROSSROADS

The Ábrahámhegy Conference

The difficult period that began at the end of the 1930's brought concerted attacks on scouting by extreme right-wing politicians who became vociferous in Hungary just as they did all over Europe at this time. Prime Minister Pál Teleki was instrumental in counteracting these attacks, and the organization successfully resisted efforts to militarize scouting. Foreign relations of the Scout Association could no longer be maintained fully, however; attendance at international camps and visits by foreign scouts stopped after 1940. When the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell, died on January 8th, 1941, the Hungarian Scout Association honored him in memorial services, despite attacks of the right-wing press.

Teleki's views are described eloquently by Colonel J. S. Wilson in "Scouting Round the World":

"I wrote an editorial for the special issue of *Jamboree* for the third quarter of 1943 on the Fourth Scout Law:

One of the subjects for discussion before the Conference of the Hungarian Boy Scout Association, in December, 1940, was the repeal of this Law of Brotherhood. It was argued that a Hungarian scout could not consider the enemies of his country as his brothers. Paul Teleki (the Premier of Hungary) settled the matter to the satisfaction of those present thus: 'In 1914,' he said, 'I entered Macsva with the Kraus Army. I was by the first military bridge thrown over the Sava. Behind me were some old Hussars, men of the Frontier Guard. I heard one say to his comrades, his pipe between his teeth: "These Serbs are really brave enemies. It is a pleasure to fight against them." So it is that when I face a man who is fighting for his country honestly and conscientiously, I feel there is some kind of a spiritual bond between us. I look on him in a curious kind of way as my comrade and my brother. In the same way the old Hussar spoke from the depths of his Hungarian soul of the enemy worthy of him. When we say that every other Scout is our brother, we presuppose that those who are our present enemies are faithfully serving their own country, in

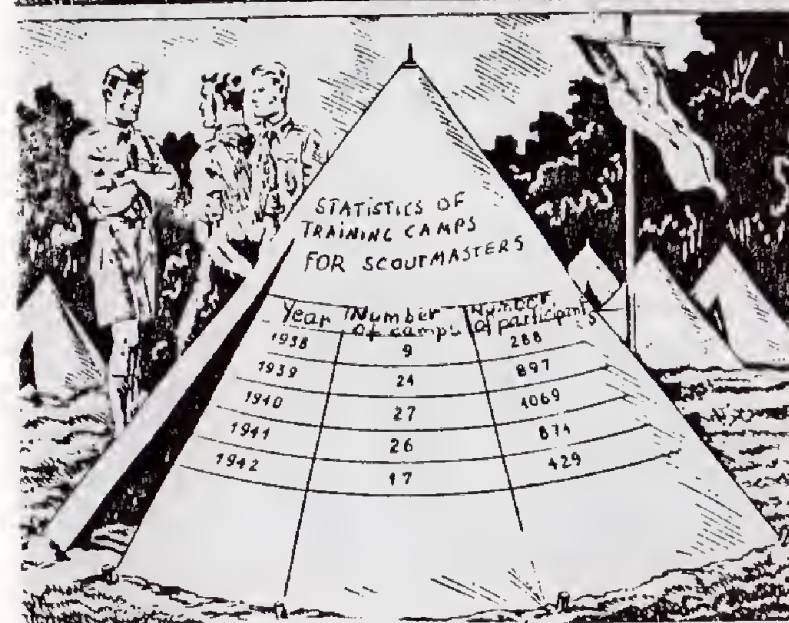
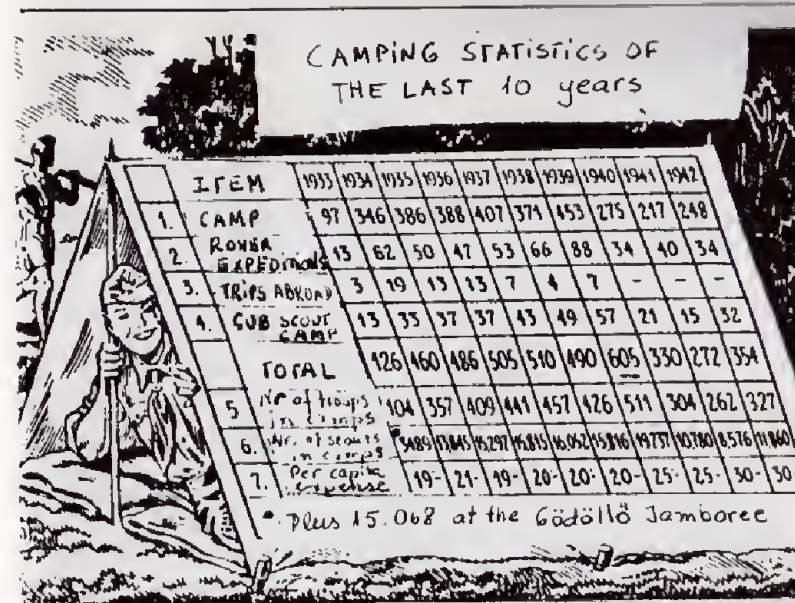


Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell

Portrait of Lord Baden-Powell in 1933. Drawing by Lajos Márton.

all honour, as their Scout duty. He who does not so serve is not a Scout, and not our brother. I esteem as myself him who is honestly serving the needs of his country. I subscribe wholeheartedly to this Scout Law.'

It is beyond the bounds of possibility that all will be satisfied with this argument, but it is one which appeals to us, and which makes it possible for us to look forward to the time when former enemies



Statistical data on Scout camps, 1933—1942.

will be reunited in the Scout Brotherhood, and make a further, and this time more determined effort to achieve a more lasting peace. It is not infrequently that brothers in the human family fight each other; they compose their quarrel: they unite together for the honour of the family. So with the Scout family, brothers can quarrel, they can compose that quarrel and they can unite together for the honour of their Brotherhood. But they must be both honest in their quarrel and equally sincere in their belief in Scouting.

I have given voice to my personal feelings in this matter, as did Count Paul Teleki, but I also believe that Scouting, internationally and nationally, accepts the same kind of principle."

In September, 1940, a small group of top-level Scout leaders gathered in a summer lodge on Ábrahámhegy at Lake Balaton, at the invitation of Prime Minister Pál Teleki. The gathering included Antal Papp, Emil Éry, Ede Faragó, Father Koszter, Béla Witz, Hugó Ulbrich, Imre Szőke, and Ferenc Farkas. Their discussions centered on the formulation of a new scout training program. This was a dire necessity in order to maintain the uniqueness and viability of scouting. The government-sponsored official youth organizations called *Levente* had gradually adopted the educational program of the Scout Association, together with some of its laws, its leadership training program, and many of its other valuable aspects. Almost everything that the Scout Association had developed painstakingly over the years was taken over.

The new scout training program envisioned at Ábrahámhegy was unique in that it was based on two foundations, the Bible and Hungarian culture. All theoretical and practical aspects of scouting were tied to these foundations, which also provided a spiritual framework for all scouting activities. The program's creators, gathered at the Ábrahámhegy conference, can be called truly prophetic. More than 40 years later, the program they instituted is still the best method of Hungarian scout training in the diaspora.

One of the most valuable new initiatives that grew out of the search for new directions of scouting was the *regölés* movement which sought to preserve Hungarian folklore, traditions, folk music, song, and dance, by making it part of the scout heritage. Rover scouts took to the new program with enthusiasm. They



Count Pál Teleki, Chief Scout, Member of the International Committee (1929—1939) — Dr. Antal Papp, President, Member of the International Committee (1939—1947) — General Ferenc Farkas, Chief Scout from 1942 until 1980.

organized their camps around exploratory projects: they visited villages, became friends with the peasants, mapped local history and traditions, collected and put into writing folk songs and customs. *Regölés* is remembered as one of the most wonderful activities of scouting during the 1940's.

Weathering the Storm

Colonel J. S. Wilson wrote of Pál Teleki in "Scouting Round the World":

"...Scouting in Hungary was fortunate to obtain the whole-hearted support and encouragement of one of the country's most noted citizens. Count Paul Teleki, Professor of Budapest University, a geographer of international eminence, several times Prime Minister, became Chief Scout, Hon. Chief Scout, a member of the International Committee for many years, Camp Chief of the Gödöllő Jamboree and a faithful friend and disciple of B.-P. His influence and inspiration were a major factor in the success of Scouting in Hungary, and contributed to its success in other countries as well. His tragic death in March, 1941, set an example of loyalty to his country and of the first Scout Law: 'A Scout's honour is to be trusted.' In him, World Scouting lost one of its well-beloved members and best-informed upholders."

The death of Pál Teleki in April, 1941, was a tremendous loss to the country and to Hungarian Scouting. He had enjoyed the respect of the entire nation. His reputation had protected the Scout Association and thwarted attacks from the political right. Following his death, these attacks became more frequent and vociferous. German influence was largely responsible for this. Scouting had been banned in Germany. It was replaced by the Hitler Youth, an organization with clear political overtones and incapable of tolerating the existence of any other youth movement. The youth leader of the Third Reich, Axmann, exerted pressure to put a similar policy into effect in Hungary as well. His ultimate aim here, too, was the total suppression of Scouting.

Scouting became particularly difficult in Hungary when the government-sponsored *Levente* youth organization was placed under military command. The military leadership envisioned that scouting, with over 10,000 well-trained leaders and scout-



Funeral of Count Pál Teleki, April 1941.

masters, should become part of the *Levente*. Attainment of this goal seemed only a matter of time. Behind the *Levente* stood an entire state apparatus, with a supporting budget of 20 million pengő. A government order to disband scouting had already been prepared, but the personal intervention of Regent Horthy and skillful action on the part of the Minister of Interior, Ferenc Keresztes-Fischer, prevented its execution. Scouting could continue under the terms of a decree issued by the office of the Prime Minister on March 12, 1942. The decree changed the name of the Scout Association to "Scouting Movement." It was to be headed by a Chief Scout appointed by the Regent and subordinated directly to the Ministry of Religion and Education. New by-laws governing organization and activities were prepared in August, 1942. They did not alter the main tenets of scouting with the exception of one significant aspect: until then, national leadership had been elected, but now it was to be appointed by the Chief Scout. The General Assembly and the Executive Committee were abolished.

Ferenc Farkas, major general and commander of the Ludovika Military Academy, was named Chief Scout. Farkas had already given 22 years of service to scouting and had distinguished himself as Chief of Staff of the 1933 Jamboree at Gödöllő. Even he could not stem entirely the pressures exerted on scouting, despite his best efforts. Attacks on scouting increased. Some members of the Parliament campaigned for a merging of the *Levente* and scout organizations. Farkas realized that he would have to enlist the public in the defense if scouting was to survive in Hungary; he issued press releases, bulletins, and held news conferences aimed at ensuring the uninterrupted work of scouting.

In attempting to assess the work of Ferenc Farkas as Chief Scout, it can be concluded that intense political and governmental pressures forced him to make some concessions, but he managed to safeguard the ideals of scouting. The Scout laws remained unchanged. He did not interfere in the activities of scout troops. The new regulations that he had to issue touched upon external appearances. They had little effect on the grass-roots organization; the substance of scouting remained the same. Actually, according to many influential and clear-sighted scout leaders of the period, the concept of an all-powerful head can be traced back to Pál Teleki. Teleki had sensed at the end of the 1930's



Swearing-in of Ferenc Farkas as the new Chief Scout in 1942. He stands in uniform at the center of the picture. To his right: Dr. István Fáy, Deputy Minister of Education.

that difficult times were to come. He saw the need for scouting to be led by one individual who is empowered to act on behalf of the organization.

The adherence of the Scouting Movement to the ideals of scouting was also demonstrated by the maintenance of relations with other scout associations during the war, as far as possible. For example, the Hungarian Scout Association kept in touch until October, 1943, via Portugal, with the exiled Polish Scout Association which had its headquarters in London. On two occasions in the fall of 1943, reports were sent to the World Bureau of Scouting, addressed to the Swedish crown-prince Gustav Adolf and relating "some important data in the life and work of the Hungarian Boy Scout Movement in the years 1941—1943."

Educational activities continued virtually unchanged at the troop and district level, despite the war and the oppressive political climate. Educational activity was maintained in meetings and camps. It received its strong support in the Scout periodicals *Magyar Cserkész* and *Vezetők Lapja* (Leaders' Magazine). The scout press was undaunted by external criticism and declined to

accommodate to social and political fashions. As the war came to dominate all facets of daily life, the scout program became increasingly oriented towards practical service of others, such as caring for refugees and for wounded soldiers and civilians.

After the right-wing coup of October 15, 1944, a new and very serious problem confronted Hungarian scouting. An order of the Ministry of Education demanded the merging of the Scouting Movement with the right-extremist *Hungarista Őrszem* (Hungarian Sentry) movement. The order was never executed, though, because of the war events and the impending siege of Budapest.

The Final Years

The damage inflicted on the country by the war naturally affected scouting as well. The furnishings and equipment of scout houses, parks, and boathouses were destroyed or disappeared. Many of the leaders lost their lives, became prisoners of war, or fled to the West. For those who remained, nothing was left besides the undying spirit of scouting with which to serve the ravaged country.

Scouting was restarted after World War II in a nearly hopeless situation. An interim Executive Committee was formed as soon as the siege of Budapest had ended in February, 1945. Its first task was the reorganization of troops and the renewal of contacts with scouts outside Hungary. It undertook the massive effort of reorganization in the face of the threat of arrest and deportation by the Soviet occupation forces or the new authorities. This menace hung over everybody who undertook public activity outside the officially sanctioned channels.

Scouts immediately sought to serve others. In addition to reconstructing scout institutions, they provided manifold public services, such as the repairing of public buildings in Budapest, helping above all with the restoration of the Central Public Library, harvesting crops instead of going to summer camps, and ministering to those who returned from prisoner-of-war camps. The amount of troops as well as their membership mushroomed in a few months at an unprecedented rate. If it is true, as Spencer said, that the strength of a nation is demonstrated in its youth, then the decimated youth of vanquished Hungary certainly proved its strong will to survive.

The Interim Executive Committee reorganized the staff of the National Headquarters, excluding anyone "tainted" with any German connections. Although this resulted in a split of the leadership, it did not affect the enthusiastic activity of troops all over the country, at least not in the beginning. Soviet-controlled governmental organs did not wait long, however, before taking action against scouting. Harrassment began by requiring that all former scoutmasters, even down to the assistant scoutmaster level, be cleared politically before getting recertified. Had this process been left to the scout leaders themselves, there would have been no difficulty with recertification. Instead, there was constant intervention by the political parties, naturally causing much damage. Soon, two distinct factions evolved within the organization. These factions did not differ in their adherence to the principles of scouting but merely reacted in different ways to political pressures. One group sought to continue scouting as it had operated traditionally, without compromises; the other was willing to make concessions to the new system, in order to assure survival. The division had serious consequences. The Ministry of the Interior used it as an excuse for interference, attacking individual leaders as well as troops. It issued an order that called for the obstruction of scouting by every available means, in order to destroy it as soon as possible.

The scouts had no one to turn to for assistance. No peace treaty had been signed yet; only a cease-fire was in effect. The Allied Control Commission, stationed in Budapest, did not substitute for foreign embassies. Without diplomatic representation, it was impossible to call upon the help of world scouting organizations.

Arbitrary actions began throughout the country against persons involved in scouting, culminating in deportations. Despite these adverse circumstances, a strong will to survive was manifest within the movement. Scouting was still the ideal of Hungarian youth. The evidence was seen in the large number of troops continuing to function in spite of all difficulties.

At the end of 1945, following the parliamentary elections, the Scout Association also chose new leaders to replace the temporary leadership. While the elections did not — and could not — bring comfort, the very fact that the organization now had permanently elected leaders presented the appearance of progress. National

Headquarters became more active and succeeded in re-establishing contact with world scouting. The scout magazines, *Magyar Cserkész* and *Vezetők Lapja*, were republished, and the *Magyar Kiscserkész* (Hungarian Cub Scout) magazine was established. The leaders of the organization and individual scoutmasters appealed to organs of the state administration in order to regain possessions and properties of the Scout Association which had been taken over by other groups or were confiscated by the state after the war. Not all of their efforts were in vain, primarily because many former scouts and supporters of scouting were still employed in the administration. Hardly any favorable government decisions could be credited to the official point of view of the various government departments. Rather, they were reflections of the good will of former scouts in administrative positions.

Scouting met with increasing difficulties in spite of the official permission to operate. Petty maneuvers directed by the Ministry of the Interior against the scouts began in 1946. Vandalism against scout meeting rooms and camps became frequent. The government exerted pressure to unite all youth organizations into one political movement. Actions were directed both against the central leadership in an attempt to shake it up and against individual troops. Scout leaders were pressured to join committees which sought to coordinate the work of all youth organizations. These committees consistently adopted resolutions that clashed with the ideals of scouting in one way or another. In small towns and rural areas, local government officials used every means to obstruct scouting activities. They forcibly drove youth into the *Magyar Demokratikus Ifjúsági Szövetség* (Hungarian Democratic Youth Association). In many places, the work of troops was arbitrarily banned. Where troops were functioning in factories, the factory committees revoked their support and consequently the troops lost their social and economic bases. Frequently, individuals lost their jobs because of their affiliation with scouting.

The double-tongued government attitude is exemplified by a characteristic episode: just as the serious attacks on the organization were beginning, scouts received a ceremonious greeting from the President of the Republic on the pages of the recently reinitiated scout periodical. Of course, this misled many people: it appeared that if the President was sending the organization official greetings, there was no need to be alarmed.

The Disbanding

On May 13, 1946, the Scout Association was presented with a state order, signed by László Rajk, Minister of the Interior, calling for a re-examination of its activities. As an official pretext of the order, recent press attacks on scouting were cited. The results were never made public. The investigation coerced many scouts, however, into quitting the organization or stepping down from positions of leadership. Those who were still willing to act as leaders were confronted daily with newspaper articles aimed against scouting. These articles reported "discovery of scout conspiracies" and even fabricated accounts of Russian soldiers being murdered in the streets of Budapest by scouts. Although evidence for these allegations failed to materialize, the accounts were never retracted or amended.

An order to disband the Association was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior in July, 1946. The news was leaked to Parliament, however, and several members of Parliament demanded information about the order. As a result, the government decided to change course. The Ministry of the Interior called a General Assembly of the Association on July 22, 1946. Scoutmasters were not allowed to attend, however. Of the nine districts composing the Association, only one was represented. The meeting was dominated by representatives of various other youth organizations sent by the Ministry. It was decided to change the name of the Association and to institute major changes not only in the by-laws but even in the Scout Laws and Oath themselves. Thus, the wording of the second scout law, "A scout faithfully carries out his duties towards God, country, and fellow man," was changed to "A scout faithfully carries out his duties." The same phrase was also omitted from the Scout Oath and the Scoutmasters' Oath. These omissions symbolized more than just changes in format: dedication to God, country, and fellow man is the basis of scouting, and without this founding principle it ceases to serve its purpose.

The outrage felt as a result of the mutilation of the Scout Law and Oath is expressed eloquently in a parliamentary speech by Representative Gyula Dessewfy.

"No words can express adequately my deep consternation upon learning of the crippling of the Scout law that prescribes faith in God and humane behavior. Scouting is a great international

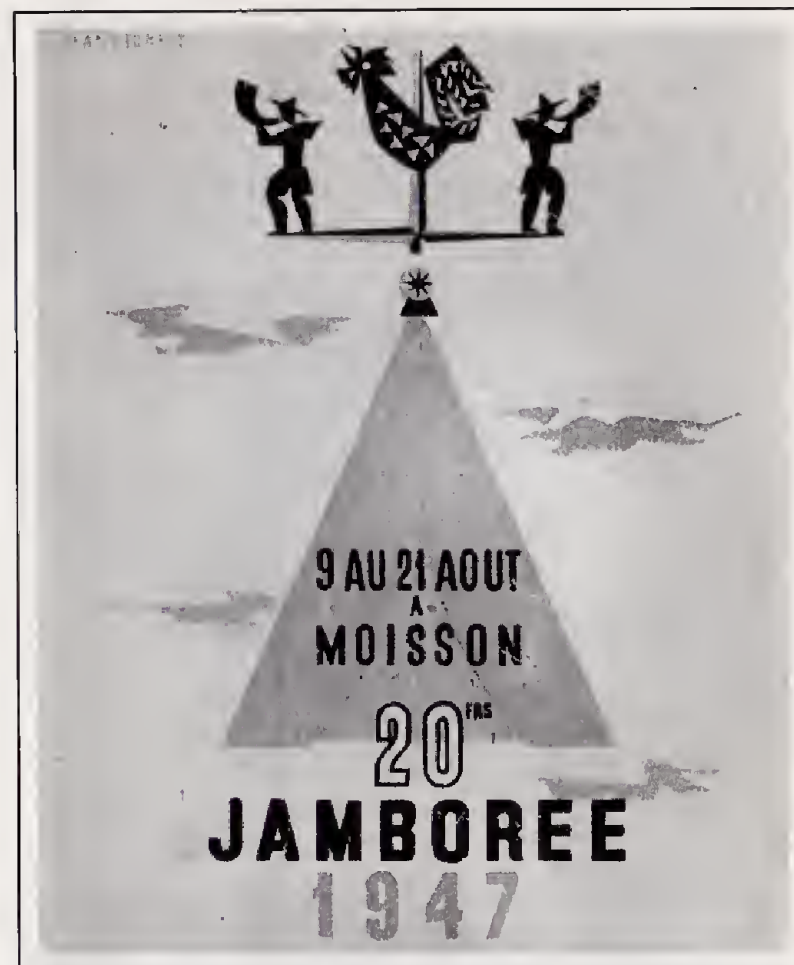
organization. For decades, it fostered the education of humane Europeans whose ideals are represented in the Atlantic Charter and in the United Nations. I daresay that Scouting is the breeding ground of the new type of humanity, of decent man, of the man of the United Nations. Scouting has its international rules, but it is also characterized by profound spiritual and intellectual foundations. These cannot be altered by anybody. I call your attention to the fact that there has been only one attempt, so far, to change these ground rules of Scouting, in the period of fascism."

Some naive persons still clung to the hope, in spite of the changes, that it would be possible to carry on with a somewhat diluted form of scouting. This hope was not to be fulfilled. Most scout houses were closed and most organized activities halted. Those elected to new leadership positions were allowed to work only as long as they strove to amalgamate scouting with the unified youth movement. Finally, another recertification of scoutmasters and troops was ordered. By this time only 160 troops remained, many of them with dwindling numbers.

Another General Assembly meeting was called on March 23, 1947. It was held because the government realized the importance of the upcoming World Jamboree in Moisson, France. The participation of a Hungarian contingent was uncertain until the last minute; government approval was granted only in mid-April. The approval was followed by hurried preparations, starting with competitions to choose the participants. Those who were selected participated in the final preparatory camp held at the Hárshegy training park. On August 6, two hundred Hungarian scouts were permitted to leave Hungary for the Jamboree. Of course, they went under the supervision of a political observer. Among the scoutmasters of the contingent, there were planted spies of the Ministry of the Interior as well as members of the political section of the Hungarian army. To add insult to injury, the Scout Association had to express publicly its gratitude to the most hated man in Hungary, Mátyás Rákosi, the leader of the Communist Party. The front-page headline of the *Magyar Cserkész* read, "We are going after all... Our thanks for the help of Mátyás Rákosi."

One of the scout leaders accompanying the contingent wrote the following:

"In general, the contingent performed well in the various competitions, taking first prize for campfire skits. The Hungarian



Brochure from the sixth World Jamboree.

camp was decorated in a simple scout-like manner. The contingent did not take along any specially prepared camp constructions, thus it remained true to basic scout practice. Its greatest success was the Hungarian cuisine. Its folk dance group band and the hand puppet performers were praised unanimously.

The content of foreign newspaper reports was mixed. Some papers praised conditions in Hungary, basing their opinion merely on the performance of the scouts. The majority of the newspapers presented a more informed picture, however. Their reporters had spent time with the members of the contingent and

obtained a realistic view from them. The latter newspapers were subjected to strong protestations on the part of the planted delegates of the contingent."

After the Jamboree, more troops were forced to disband. Finally, in May, 1948, it was announced at the Hárshegy training park that the Hungarian Boy Scout Association would be incorporated into the state-controlled *Útörő* (Pioneer) Communist youth movement.



Sixth World Jamboree, Moisson, France, 1947. Publicity stamp.

The Hungarian people were unable to counteract this pressure, just as they could not stem the tragic tide of events which had begun to transform their homeland. This sad period of oppression led to the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, during which scouting, too, reappeared. Surviving members of former troops began to reorganize. Former scouts reoccupied the building which had housed the scout headquarters and initiated plans to revive the Scout Association. The tragic end of the revolution frustrated a renewal. By this time, however, Hungarian scouting had taken root in the diaspora.

The Council Fire

The Pax-Ting

By Rose Kerr

The Pax-Ting, so long awaited, so long discussed, lies no longer in the future, but in the past, no longer in the region of dream, but in the region of solid achievement. Whatever convulsions may occur in Europe in the near future, at least we have the Pax-Ting to look back upon — a period of calm, a period of sunshine, a period of carefree happiness.

The fact that it has been held and that it was a real triumph is due to the faith and courage of the Hungarian Girl Scouts, and principally to the unshakable determination of their Chief, Antonia Lindenmeyer.

It was she who first conceived the idea of this World Camp, and during the two years during which the preparations have been in progress there have been many occasions when a weaker person would have given up hope and cancelled the camp.

From many sources, both within and without her own country, came messages of doubt and discouragement — all sorts of difficulties were put in the way, fear counseled prudence, but Antonia Lindenmeyer disregarded all fear and went calmly on her way.

In the last circular issued before the beginning of the Pax-Ting she wrote: "We hope, with the blessing of our Lord, that this great event will be a gathering worthy of its high aims, a deepening of our world-wide sisterhood, an increase of strength and confidence, a making of real friendship in this time of world crisis."

And surely we must believe that God's blessing did rest upon the Pax-Ting, which took place during a lull between the storms. Although the numbers were not so large as had originally been anticipated, a goodly number responded to the invitation, and it was the largest camp for girls which has ever been held.

There was some difficulty in ascertaining the exact numbers in camp — everyone had a different figure to give — but Roszi Zimmermann, who had the task of feeding the hungry multitudes, should surely know, and she told me there were 3,800. Of these about 2,200 were Hungarians, and the rest from other countries.

The largest contingent were the Swedes, who had a splendid camp of 244 girls; they were very proud to have their Princess Sibylla camping with them, and they prepared a comfortable tent for her.

The next largest contingent was from Great Britain; they numbered 206, and came from different ends of the earth; the Guides from England, Scotland and Wales were reinforced by individual Guiders and Rangers from India, Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, Hong-Kong, Kenya, Malta, etc. On Visitors' Day the Indian Guider, in her attractive sari, received so much attention from public and Press that she finally had to be removed to the hospital tent for her own protection.

Denmark, Norway, Suomi-Finland, the Netherlands, all sent fine contingents of well over a hundred in number. Slightly less numerous were the French, Swiss, Poles, Estonians and Irish, and there were three Guiders from Lithuania.

The World Committee was represented by Miss Parm and Mrs. van den Bosch — and the World Bureau by the Director (Mrs. Leigh-White), the Treasurer (Miss Fry), the Secretary (Miss Norris), and Mrs. Mark Kerr. These were all guests of the Hungarian Girl Guides, and Miss Lindenmeyer had also invited

a few old friends as special guests: Miss Bewley, Miss Warner, and, last but not least, Lady Ruggles-Brise, who, as Mrs. Essex Reade, was Chairman of the original International Council. It was a great pleasure to have her back among the Guides, and she distinguished herself at the last Camp Fire by making quite a long speech in Hungarian.

These special guests were lodged in hotels in Budapest and Gödöllő, but spent most of their time in the camp. It might be thought that such a huge camp would be rather a blot on the landscape, but this was not the case. Gödöllő is a perfect place — it is a large camp; it is a big wooded park, and the various encampments were quite hidden away from each other among the trees.

It was a never-ending source of interest and pleasure to wander along through the woods, for one was perpetually discovering some new "country" never seen before; the entrance gateways gave the clue to what country lay behind — a huge red rose and several sailing ships showed the way into England, a harp was set outside Ireland, and the various Hungarian camps had beautiful and elaborate entrances.

The tents showed much variety in size and type, from the big marquee in the English group to the tiny kennel-like tents of some Hungarian Guides, from the Indian tee-pees of the Finnish group to the round orange-coloured tent, blown up pneumatically, which was Miss Lindenmeyer's sanctum.

There were a few permanent buildings as well: the office, where the patient Hungarian staff were always on duty; the shop, where there was an interesting exhibition of handicrafts; the canteen, where there was always a queue for drinks and stamps; and one other long building in which two rooms had been prepared for the reception of Princess Sibylla and the Archduchess Anna; these were furnished with lovely old pieces of furniture, made in traditional Hungarian designs and colours.

The March Past and the National Displays took place in the arena in the camp, where there was a tribune for visitors. Thus the camp was quite self-contained. Visitors were strictly limited to certain days and hours, and it was quite hard to get past the Guides who were acting Cerberus at the gates. The camp boundaries were patrolled by armed guards, who took a deep interest in the occupations of the campers, especially in their ablutions.

The special events were many and various. The first in date was the ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Budapest; this is a very beautiful monument. Mrs. van den Bosch laid on it the wreath of the World Association, and made a speech, which is given on page 60.

On the same morning took place the opening of the Guide Exhibition, which was one of the principal museums of the city; the exhibits were all beautifully shown, in glass cases specially lent by the museum authorities, who had taken the greatest interest in the Exhibition.

Several excursions were made; one of these was by steamer up the Danube to Esztergom, where there is a magnificent cathedral. Another day a large number went to Hortobágy, the Great Plain of Hungary, saw the huge herds of horned cattle, and were allowed to ride the horses of the men who round up the cattle.

Much gracious hospitality was received by the special guests and the leaders of the contingents; a charming tea party was given by the Regent, Admiral Horthy, and his wife in the garden of the Royal Castle of Gödöllő; the Regent talked to almost every one of his guests, and won all hearts by his kindness and geniality.

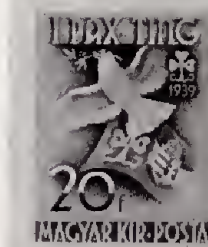
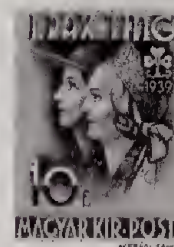
A delightful informal party was given by H.R.H. Archduchess Anna, at her home high up on a hill overlooking Budapest. The Guiders ate their supper

sitting on the steps of the terrace, and watched the lights of the city shine out as the darkness fell.

Archduchess Anna is the Patroness of the Hungarian Guides; her gentleness, kindness and simplicity make her very much loved, and she is a real friend to all the Guiders.

Kindness, courtesy and helpfulness are indeed the most marked characteristics of all the Hungarian Guides, and they were ideal hostesses. The "etiquette of the Pax-Ting," as given on page 57, had been carefully absorbed by them; they were always at hand to help, yet never obtruded themselves.

Miss Lindenmeyer herself, with so much responsibility resting on her, never appeared fussed or worried, and always had time to stroll about talking to her guests. Her two chief assistants, Zimmermann Rózsi and Wodetzky Maria, were always gay and smiling, and the others took their cue from them.



Special stamps issued by the Royal Hungarian Government to celebrate the Pax-Ting.

Besides the great Guide camp, there was also a small encampment of Tündérke (Brownies) in a school nearby. Here there were about sixty delightful children, under the care of an excellent Brown Owl. Each Pack had its own dormitory, which it had decorated with pictures, toys, and embroideries brought from home. Each bed was the perfection of neatness, with a coloured embroidered quilt on it. The Brownies love visitors, and sang and danced for them with great gusto.

In fact, the spirit of the whole camp was one of warmhearted welcome; there was no vainglory or ostentation or "propaganda" — and we learned really to love the Hungarian Guides.

The feelings of all the guests were well summed up in the speech made by Mrs. Leigh-White at the final campfire:

"Although representing the World Bureau and the World Committee, I should like to think that I am also voicing the thoughts of every guest present at this Pax-Ting.

"I want to express, firstly, unbounded admiration for the courageous way in which the Hungarian League of Girl Scouts, together with their able President, Miss Lindenmeyer, have prepared and carried out the arrangements for this great gathering. For some time past, we who work in the Bureau have seen the plans grow and develop, and now we have seen them blossom under our eyes like a lovely dream come true.

"Secondly, the gratitude of us all for the wonderful welcome which we have received; for the great kindness which has been shown us on every side and the care which has been taken of us.

"Thirdly, our appreciation of all the delights which have come to us; the beauty of the surroundings, the colour, the flowers, the fun, the interests, and the joy of new friendships. We came from far and near, bringing with us not only our tents and our rucksacks, but our Promise and our Law, and when we met together, we exchanged our smiles and our songs and our desire for friendliness and simple enjoyments.

"But for all this we are not forgetful of the difficulties and dangers of the days in which we live. Did we not, at the very commencement, when standing by the Unknown Soldier's Tomb, throw our minds back for a moment to the heroic memory of a great sacrifice? And now that it is time to pack up and turn our faces homeward, are we not each determined, with the help of God, that our gained experience and our new contacts shall give us fresh hope and strengthen in us the will for peace?

"We who work in the World Bureau are delighted with the success of the Pax-Ting; it has given us great encouragement in our work, which is that of promoting the friendly contacts between the girls of all nations, because we believe that in so doing we shall be working towards the realisation of another and a greater dream — that of establishing peace and friendship between all the peoples of the world.

"Hungarian Girl Scouts, we congratulate you on your splendid effort, and we know that you have the gratitude of every member of our world sisterhood, both of those who are present at the Pax-Ting, and those who are not. We thank you, our sisters; we salute you."



GÁBOR BODNÁK SCOUTING IN HUNGARY